NEWS / A2

Enrile turns up word war with De Venecia

BUSINESS / B1

Corruption, poor infrastructure dragging RP competitiveness

NEWS / A19

Saguisag finally told his wife was killed in accident

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Dollywood: Dennis Trillo's love menace

Norman Mailer, towering literary figure, dies at 84

NEW YORK—NORMAN MAILER, THE PUGnacious prince of American letters who for decades reigned as the country's literary conscience and provocateur with such books as "The Naked and the Dead" and "The Executioner's Song," has died at the age of 84.

Mailer died on Saturday of acute renal

NORMAN/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, November 12, 2007 ★ 14 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 337 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Chubby may be the new healthy, the new beautiful

HEALTH AND BEAUty seem inextricable. That smiling, slender woman on the cover of Self magazine. The ripped guy looking out from the pages

CHUBBY/ A8

Comelec security beefed up

Cops seek videotape for clues to killing

By Nikko Dizon, Leila B. Salaverria and Allison W. Lopez

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERday pledged to bolster security for officials of the Commission on Elections under death threats, even as police expressed hope video footage would yield clues to the identity of the assassin who gunned down the Comelec's legal chief on a busy Ermita street.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said poll officials had received "many" death threats, mostly through text messages, and that some of the threats were related to election disputes.

"We will see to it that appropriate security measures are given to these officials," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters after attending a ceremony commemorating US Veterans' Day at the American Cemetery and Memorial in Fort Bonifacio.

"The President has given out specific instructions to the police to solve that criminal act immediately," Ermita said.

Asked later to elaborate on his remarks about increasing security for Comelec officials, he said: "If there is a threat, they most probably (will) request for security."

The chief of the Comelec's legal department, Alioden Dalabia Dalaig, 64, was gunned down by an unknown assassin on Saturday night as he was about to cross the street toward Hyatt Hotel and Casino. He was pronounced dead at the Ospital ng Maynila from a lone bullet that pierced his heart.

Police said video footage taken from

COMELEC/ A20

ENGLISHMAN Daryl Peach raises his arms in triumph over Filipino Roberto Gomez (right) to claim the World Pool crown at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

World Pool: Nerves fail 'Superman'

By Musong R. Castillo

THIS SUPERMAN SIMPLY COULD not handle the pressure.

Filipino Robert Gomez succumbed to nerves in what would have been his moment of glory last night and yielded a thrilling 15-17 decision to Englishman Daryl Peach in the title match of the $400,000 World Pool Championship before a packed Araneta Coliseum gallery.

Gomez blundered so many shots, but none bigger than what looked like a routine cut shot on the yellow-striped 9 in the 31st rack which would have put him on the hill and the chance to break for the championship.

Instead, he gave the clean-shaven Peach a 16-15 lead and the perfect opportunity to win the toe-to-toe match that took all of three hours and 42 minutes to conclude.

It wasn't exactly the dramatic ending an entire country had wanted for the 29-year-old Gomez, the first qualifier to ever make the title match and who came so close to pushing it up a notch.

WORLD/ A17

Resign-snap poll bid has no critical mass

By Amando Doronila

NO ONE WAS SURPRISED WHEN CIVIL society launched last week a multisectoral campaign calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro to pave the way for snap election in 60 days. It was predictable, including the composition of the groups and individuals driving the movement.

ANALYSIS

The issues of the latest campaign are slightly different from those highlighted in previous oust-Arroyo campaigns, particularly that in June 2005, which was sparked by the disclosure of the "Hello Garci" tapes.

The current drive has an element in common with several attempts to depose Ms Arroyo during the past seven years, including the 2003 Oakwood mutiny by disgruntled junior military officers, the aborted coup attempt led by Scout Rangers Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim in February 2006, and two impeachment complaints against the President.

The defining element is that all these attempts had used a nonelectoral method to bring about leadership change. The coup attempts and calls for people power that preceded them to force Ms Arroyo to step down were extra-constitutional, no matter how bloodless the outcome.

All these approaches have betrayed

RESIGN-SNAP/ A19

Gov to use cash gift for park garden

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF MALOLOS—BULACAN GOV. Joselito Mendoza says he plans to buy flowering plants to beautify a park with the P500,000 given to him in Malacañang in a controversial gift-giving to politicians that has sparked fresh calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster on bribery charges.

"I will buy all kinds of flowers and flowering plants," Mendoza said at the opening of the Hardin ng mga Bayani at Sining (Garden of Heroes and the Arts) in front of the provincial capitol here on Friday.

"I'll use that money to buy flowering plants that would be planted in this garden," he said in a later interview, speaking in Filipino.

Mendoza had earlier announced that he would wait for Gov. Ed Panlilio's decision on what to do with the P500,000 that the Pampanga official also received

GOV/ A19

VETERANS' DAY RYAN LIM
US Ambassador Kristie Kenney talks to Filipino war veteran Frederick Viloan during Veterans' Day ceremonies at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

At 24, Fil-Am soldier joins war veterans

By Nikko Dizon

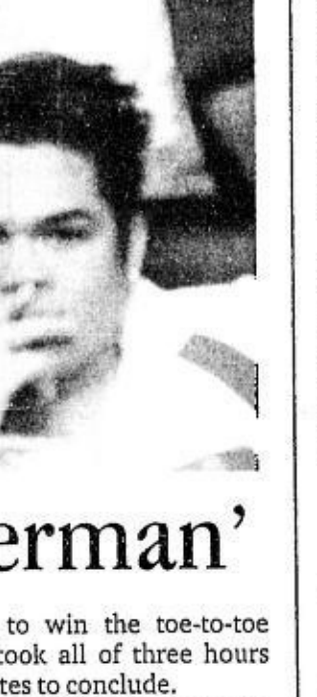
AT 24, JIAN KELLY SIBUG IS an Iraq war veteran who has already received a Purple Heart. The Filipino-American has firsthand knowledge of war, the value of life and second chances.

Sibug survived a roadside ambush during his brief tour of duty in Iraq more than two years ago. His roommate died, while two other soldiers he knew were killed instantly by an improvised explosive device planted by Iraqi insurgents.

Sibug, an operations specialist, lost the middle finger in his right hand, fractured his right wrist, suffered burns on his face, and still has a shrapnel embedded in his chest.

The harrowing experience that took place in northern Baghdad cut short his stint with

AT 24/ A8



RYAN LIM
SIBUG: Iraqi war veteran.

David's journey of triumph vs autism

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Allison W. Lopez

DAVID MICHAEL LOPEZ, 22, graduated on April 12 from the Lyceum Institute of Technology in Calamba City in Laguna, earning a degree in communications.

"I wanted to communicate," Lopez said, explaining why he took the course.

He is proof that being diagnosed as a person with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is not the end of the world.

Only a trained eye can detect traces of autism in David. He looks like any other young man his age.

A few know that David is a shining example of the triumph of perseverance and years of struggle against ASD.

ASD, as defined by the Autism Society of the Philippines (ASP), is a developmental disability that severely hinders the way information is gathered and processed by the brain, causing problems in communication, learning and social behavior.

At age 3, David was diagnosed with ASD. But through years of education and parental care, he was able to overcome his condition. David told the INQUIRER that the early intervention of his parents was key.

DAVID'S/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2007

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Eastern Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies ith scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/11/11/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

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JPE turns up word war with JDV

Senator claims he has more exposés to make against Speaker

WHAT'S INSIDE

GMA to Chinoy traders: Help me /A4

ANOTHER impeach case to be filed today /A4

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE WORD WAR BETWEEN Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Speaker Jose de Venecia escalated further yesterday with the former calling the latter a "hypocrite" and a "pretender" for "having the gall to call for a national moral revolution when he himself had stuck his hands in several anomalous deals like the North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) and National Broadband Network (NBN) projects."

"I am furious at hypocrites, those who pretend to be someone they are not. He is a *bolero*, but he cannot make a fool out of me," said an irate Enrile, referring to De Venecia's call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to lead a moral revolution to rid the country of corruption.

Enrile also threatened more exposés on De Venecia's past dealings.

"Tell the Speaker not to badmouth me because I'm not like that. I know more things about him, especially since 1995, and if I am forced to reveal them, I don't know where he will pick himself up from. I know his true character," Enrile said.

Enrile said De Venecia did not have the moral ground to call for a moral revolution when the latter had clearly been lobbying in behalf of private interests for state projects, citing the NorthRail and NBN projects, the latter which his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, had pursued aggressively.

The word war erupted when Enrile revealed that De Venecia had asked him during a private meeting in 2005 "not to rock the boat" when the $550-million NorthRail project was being negotiated with China.

De Venecia called Enrile a "fish monger" and urged him to act more like a statesman by stopping all this "silly talk" of his alleged wheeling and dealing in state projects.

Yesterday, the Speaker expressed regret about asking Enrile in 2005 not to block the NorthRail project, which was to be funded by the Chinese government.

"With what he's doing now, I regret it," he told the INQUIRER.

De Venecia said Enrile should not put too much meaning into their 2005 meeting, insisting that his stake in the project was limited to its importance to local transport.

"Just because you're endorsing a project does it mean you have an interest in it?" he asked.

But Enrile maintained that De Venecia sought the meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati (not the Dusit as he earlier claimed) two years ago and that the Speaker even called a lawyer in Malacañang and a NorthRail official to tell them the NorthRail contract was a done deal.

Enrile said he and the other senators had been railing about the bloated price and anomalous provisions of the NorthRail contract the last two years but De Venecia had been successful in "killing" the issue in the media.

Enrile said he would also pin down De Venecia as the main backer of his son whose company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had lost in its bid to bag the NBN project which was awarded to ZTE Corp. of China. The contract has since been cancelled by President Arroyo due to the controversy sparked by Joey de Venecia's expose on alleged bribes which attended the contract. ***With a report from Christian V. Esguerra***

3 immigration execs under probe

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THREE OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU of Immigration are under investigation for their possible involvement in facilitating the entry and departure of four Chinese nationals using fake South Korean passports.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan has issued a memorandum directing the three officers to explain within 72 hours why administrative charges should not be filed against them.

"It was established that the arrival and departure stamps on the Korean passports seized from the Chinese passengers were assigned to these immigration officers," Libanan said yesterday in a statement.

He declined to identify the three officers assigned to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), pending the submission of their written explanations and the filing of administrative charges against them.

"The employees are entitled to due process. I am giving them the opportunity to explain before taking disciplinary action against them," Libanan said.

"However, I will not hesitate to suspend and dismiss them from the service if investigation shows they colluded with syndicates smuggling illegal aliens abroad using our country as a transit point," he said.

The employees' case stemmed from a recent incident at the airport wherein two Chinese passengers were apprehended by elements of the Naia-BI Migration Compliance and Monitoring Group for attempting to leave the country with fake Korean passports.

The passengers, identified as Weng Shuting and Zheng Chen Feng, were intercepted at the departure area on Oct. 31 before they could board an Emirates Airlines flight for Dubai.

The two are now detained at the Bicutan immigration jail pending deportation proceedings.

However, their two Chinese companions—Lin Yuxia and He Ertong—who were on the same flight, reportedly eluded arrest.

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Cavite blast site yields sixth fatality

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—THE death toll in the explosion that leveled several houses in a Bacoor, Cavite, subdivision has risen to six after policemen found another body under the rubble at noon on Sunday.

Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, identified the victim as Joel Dellosa, 18, said to be a member of a syndicate engaged in supplying dynamite to blast fishermen.

Dellosa's burned body was found by personnel of the Bacoor Engineering Office and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) who were clearing the area.

Posadas said the house under which Dellosa's body was found was next to the house where the blast occurred on Anthurium Street, Camella Sorrento subdivision, on Thursday.

The house where the explosion occurred was rented by Rechilda Suson, one of those killed in the blast and the alleged leader of the dynamite-making syndicate.

The explosion totally destroyed at least six houses and partially damaged 10 others.

Posadas said the dozen residents who were hurt in the blast had been released from the hospital.

"We're now clearing the whole area of the debris caused by the blast. We have been scouring the damaged houses and, so far, there were no indications there are other bodies still under the ruins," he said in a mobile phone interview. ***Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

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Marie France

GMA to Chinoy traders: Help me with detractors

By Christine O. Avendaño

AS THE SENATE THIS WEEK resumes investigating corruption allegations against the administration, President Macapagal-Arroyo has sought to still the "relentless political noise" by turning to a group of people who may just be able to influence her political detractors.

The President on Saturday called on Chinese-Filipino businessmen to try and convince their politician-friends to buckle down to work rather than engage in politicking.

At the induction of officers of the Philippine-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCCI), Ms Arroyo reiterated what she said earlier in the week—that she would be stepping down in 2010 and that she intended to improve the economy and the political climate "through the end of my term."

She said that with the help of the PCCCI, we "will not let the nation slip into election year instability."

Acknowledging "the seemingly relentless political noise and partisan intrigue going on around us," the President lauded the PCCCI members for their "deep concern" for the country's economy.

"I know you want results, not rhetoric, action not political posturing," Ms Arroyo said in her speech.

"I ask you to tell the politicians that support you to get on with the people's work ... I ask you to call on the legislators you support in the elections to stop partisan wrangling and start legislating," she said.

She said Congress had shown that it could produce legislation that helps the people "when it sets aside self-interest," and cited as an example the Senate's recent passage of the cheaper medicines bill.

The Senate resumes this week its inquiry into the allegedly anomalous National Broadband Network (NBN) project deal in which the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and other government officials were implicated.

The Senate is also expected to open an inquiry into the handing out of cash to congressmen and governors in Malacañang last month allegedly to buy support for Ms Arroyo against impeachment.

The President's spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, yesterday said Ms Arroyo's appeal for support from the businessmen was in aid of "ensuring political stability, continued economic growth and sustainable peace and order to prevent our slipping into uncertainties that mark an election year."

Correction

VILLEGAS (inset) kisses his infant son who was born after he had his life-altering surgery

IN THE NOV. 11 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Once 'ugly' Pinoy is top fund raiser for 'Smile'"—misstated the surname of the head of Operation Smile's speakers' bureau. The name of the bureau head is Jose Villegas—not Jose Caparas. The same mistake appeared in a caption on Page A8.

* * *

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More groups to file impeach case vs GMA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BAGONG ALYANSANG Makabayan and the human rights group Karapatan are set to file today a new and "more comprehensive" impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes said the complaint will hold Ms Arroyo accountable not only for the controversial National Broadband Network project and the alleged bribery of more than 100 government officials but also for the spate of extrajudicial killings and abductions in the country.

Unlike the complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido last month, Reyes said their complaint would include the issue of electoral fraud, bringing into question the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

"Some people may say that filing another impeachment complaint now is like smashing against a brick wall. Maybe. However, this time, the wall has cracks and is not as solid as it used to be," Reyes told the INQUIRER in a text message yesterday.

Bayan and Karapatan said it will file the impeachment complaint at 8 a.m. today and will be joined by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the prioress of the Benedictine sisters, Sr. Mary John Mananzan; National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera, and relatives of victims of human rights abuses.

The Public Interest Law Center will serve as counsel for the complainants, who insisted that multiple impeachment complaints must be allowed if these form part of a single impeachment proceeding.

The rules of the House of Representatives state that only one impeachment complaint can be entertained per year.

Bayan chair Carol Araullo said in a statement that the filing of the complaint would challenge the "existing skewed impeachment rules of Congress."

"For more than two years now, the impeachment process has become a virtual rat race. He who files the first complaint effectively bars anyone from availing of the same process. We want this process to change," she said.

The group also said that if the House secretary general refuses to acknowledge the impeachment complaint, they would proceed to the Supreme Court.

"The House of Representatives will get a bigger headache by simply barring this new impeachment complaint. We won't give up the fight that easily ... They should be careful before they hastily dismiss this complaint. Their actions will form the basis of our going to the Supreme Court," Reyes said.

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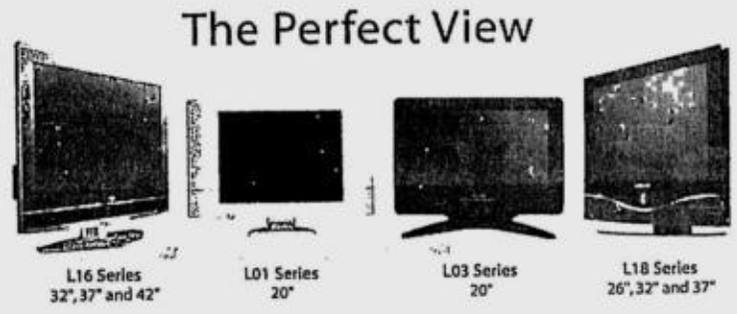

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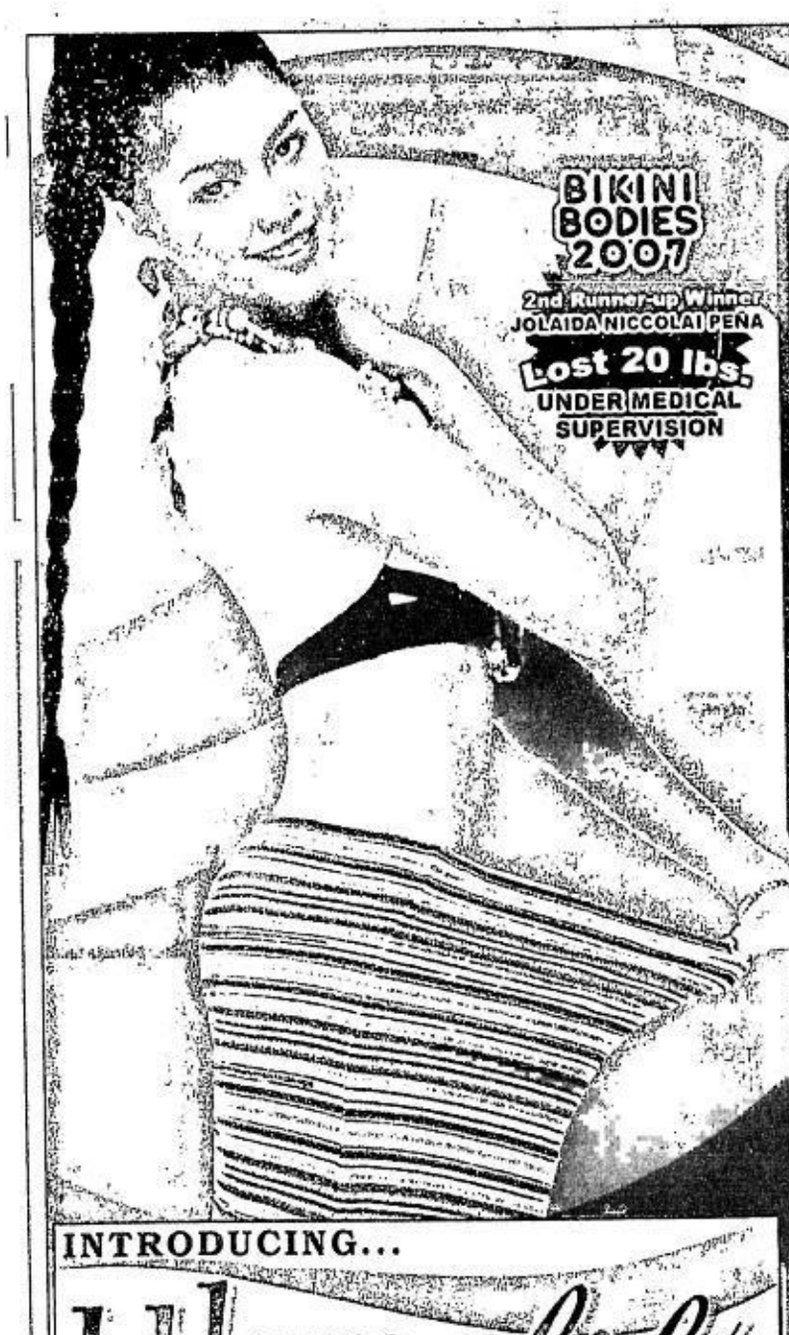

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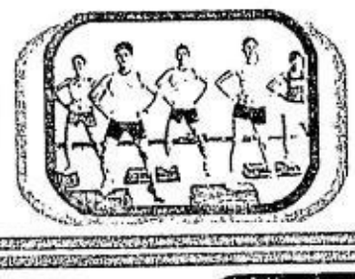

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Asean expo to focus not only on trade but culture

THE INTERNATIONAL ARTS and Crafts Expo of the Asean Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (Ahpada) will feature daily shows highlighting the culture of some of the participating countries.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, chair of the expo national organizing committee, said yesterday the cultural shows will be one of the three major components of the expo.

The other components, he said in a press statement, are the country and regional pavilions featuring arts and crafts unique to each country and reflective of their heritage, and the international selling area.

The countries that will exhibit at the expo are the Asean member nations, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Cambodia, and Burma (Myanmar), as well as Japan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the United States.

The expo will be held on Nov. 22-25 at the SMX Convention Center by the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Durano said the countries that will stage cultural presentations are the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and the US.

Durano credited the National Commission on Culture and the Arts under Executive Director Cecille Guidote-Alvarez with putting together the performances by Philippine culture groups.

The performers include the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group, Banda Kawayan, Angono Higantes, Earthsavers Ensemble, Kasarinlan, Philippine Navy Band, Philippine Ballet Theatre, Quezon City Ballet, Ramon Magsaysay youth choir and Quezon City Orchestra.

Durano said a forum on business opportunities (Biz Ops 2008) will coincide with the expo.

Unesco will display products made by recipients of the Unesco-Ahpada seal of excellence in a special setting.

The expo organizing committee includes Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Ahpada president and former Tourism Secretary Mina T. Gabor.

Rizal shabu lab busted

AGENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency and Rizal provincial police busted Friday a suspected shabu laboratory in the province.

Derreck Carreon, PDEA spokesperson, said teams from the two agencies served a search warrant on a house on Camia Street, Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal at around 11:35 a.m.

Recovered in the raid were several crates containing shabu ingredients and laboratory equipment.

Alex Gozun and John Ang, subjects of the search warrant, were not at the house at the time of the raid.

Carreon said the ingredients could have produced millions of pesos worth of high-grade shabu. *Alcuin Papa*

Maria C. Santos; 93

MARIA CRISOSTOMO SANTOS of Lingayen, Pangasinan, and Malabon and Marikina cities died on Nov. 8 at the age of 93.

She is survived by her children Josefina Sarmiento, Alice Isip, Rosemarie de la Paz, Violeta, Caridad Ignacio, Edmundo, Fr. Rolly, CM, Elena Apostol, Raul, Freddie and Lulu Jose.

Her body lies at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Nov. 13 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 9 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

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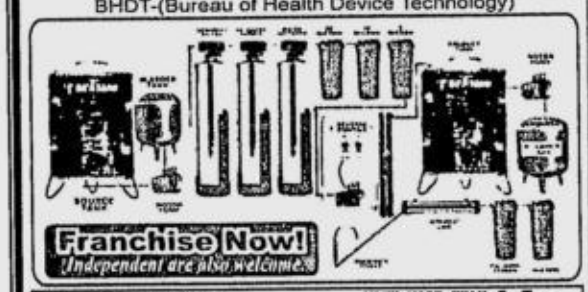

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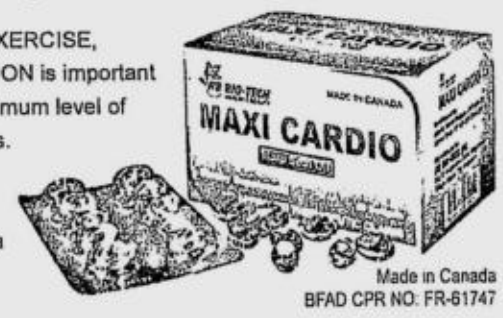

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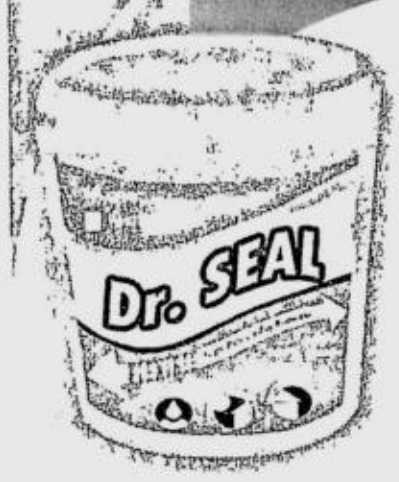

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Pinoy writer a finalist in literary tilt won by Sino

HONG KONG—THE PHILIPPINES' JOSE Dalisay Jr. was one of five shortlisted authors for the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize that on Saturday was won by Chinese author Jiang Rong for his best-selling novel "The Wolf Totem."

The $10,000 (P426,000) literary award was newly established to bring new Asian literature in English to the attention of the world literary community.

Dalisay, who writes in both English and Filipino, has published 15 books of stories, plays and essays, with five receiving the National Book Award from the Manila Critics Circle. Dalisay teaches English and Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines and has lectured on Philippine culture and politics at universities in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. He writes a regular column for the Philippine Star.

According to the judges, Dalisay's entry, "Soledad's Sister," was "full of narrative surprise, artfully put together and richly observed. It offers an unillusioned, compassionate portrayal of contemporary society from a Philippines perspective, and is utterly compelling. The characters engage us in the epic, yet very local nature of their quest for dignity and justice. A work of warmth, humanity and confidence."

Jiang's "Wolf Totem," first published in Chinese, is about the struggle of life during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution and draws on Jiang's personal experience in the Mongolian grasslands.

The English edition of the book is scheduled for publication in March next year.

Jiang, born in Jiangsu in 1946, spent 11 years living with nomadic communities in the Chinese border grassland region.

The Beijing-based writer was not able to receive the award in person at the ceremony held in Hong Kong Saturday night because of ill health. But in a statement, Jiang said he was thrilled and honored that his Chinese story caught the attention of the judges.

"I spent 30 years thinking, and six years writing, 'Wolf Totem.' During that process, I hoped to write a story that would appeal to the Chinese sensibility," Jiang said.

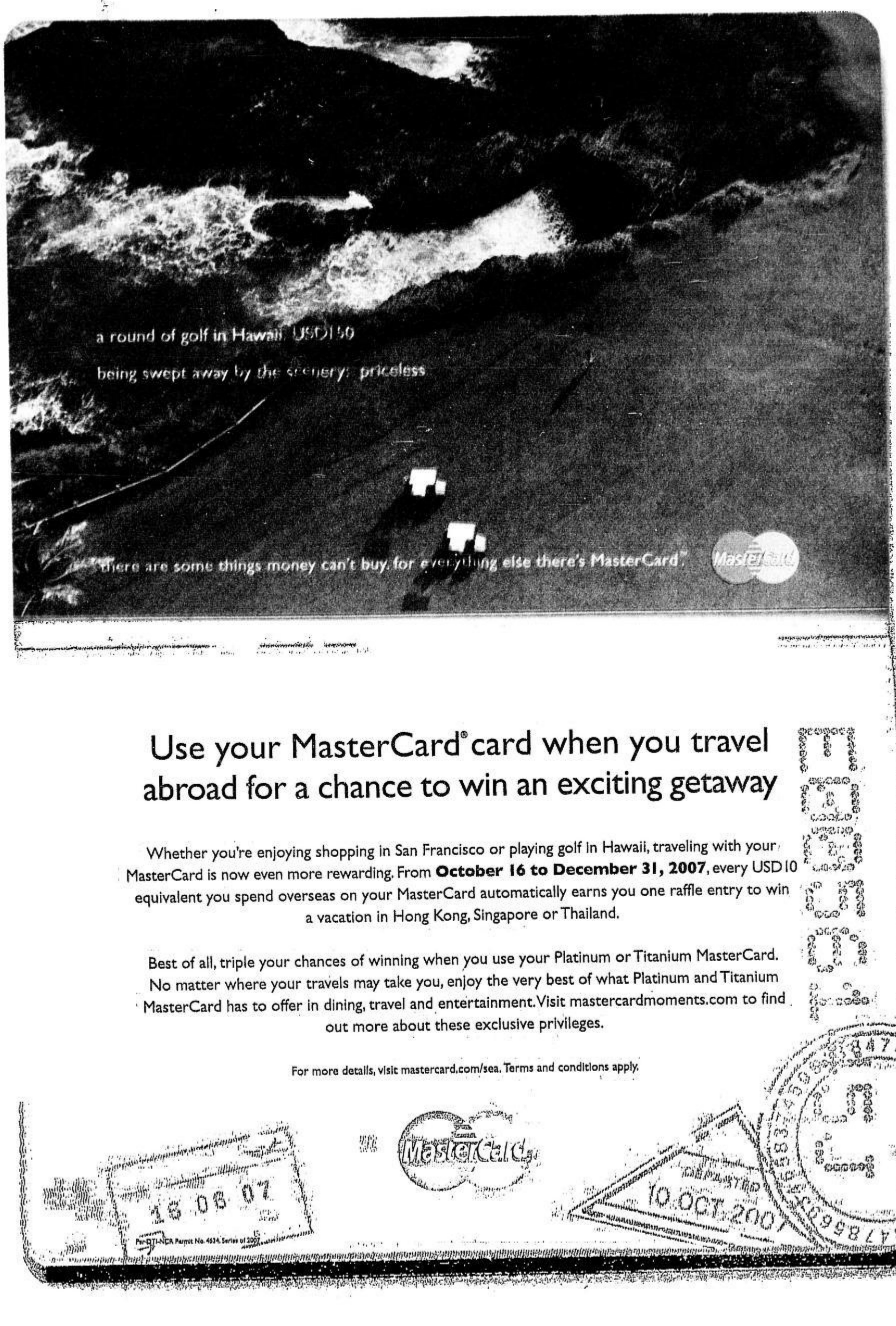
Adrienne Clarkson, who led the panel of three judges, hailed "Wolf Totem" as a "panoramic novel" of life in the Mongolian grasslands during the Cultural Revolution period.

"The slowly developing narrative is rendered in vivid detail and has a powerful cumulative effect," the former governor general of Canada said in a statement.

The three other writers shortlisted for the prize included Indian writer Reeti Gadekar for "Families at Home," Burma's (Myanmar) Nu Nu Yi Inwa for "Smile As They Bow" and Hong Kong's Xu Xi for "Habit of a Foreign Sky."

The annual prize is sponsored by the London-based financial services company Man Group.

Man Group Plc is known for sponsoring the prestigious Booker Prize, which rewards the best novel of the year by a writer from Britain, Ireland or a Commonwealth country. The Booker, founded in 1969, has gone in the past to writers such as Salman Rushdie and J.M. Coetzee. *AP, Reuters*

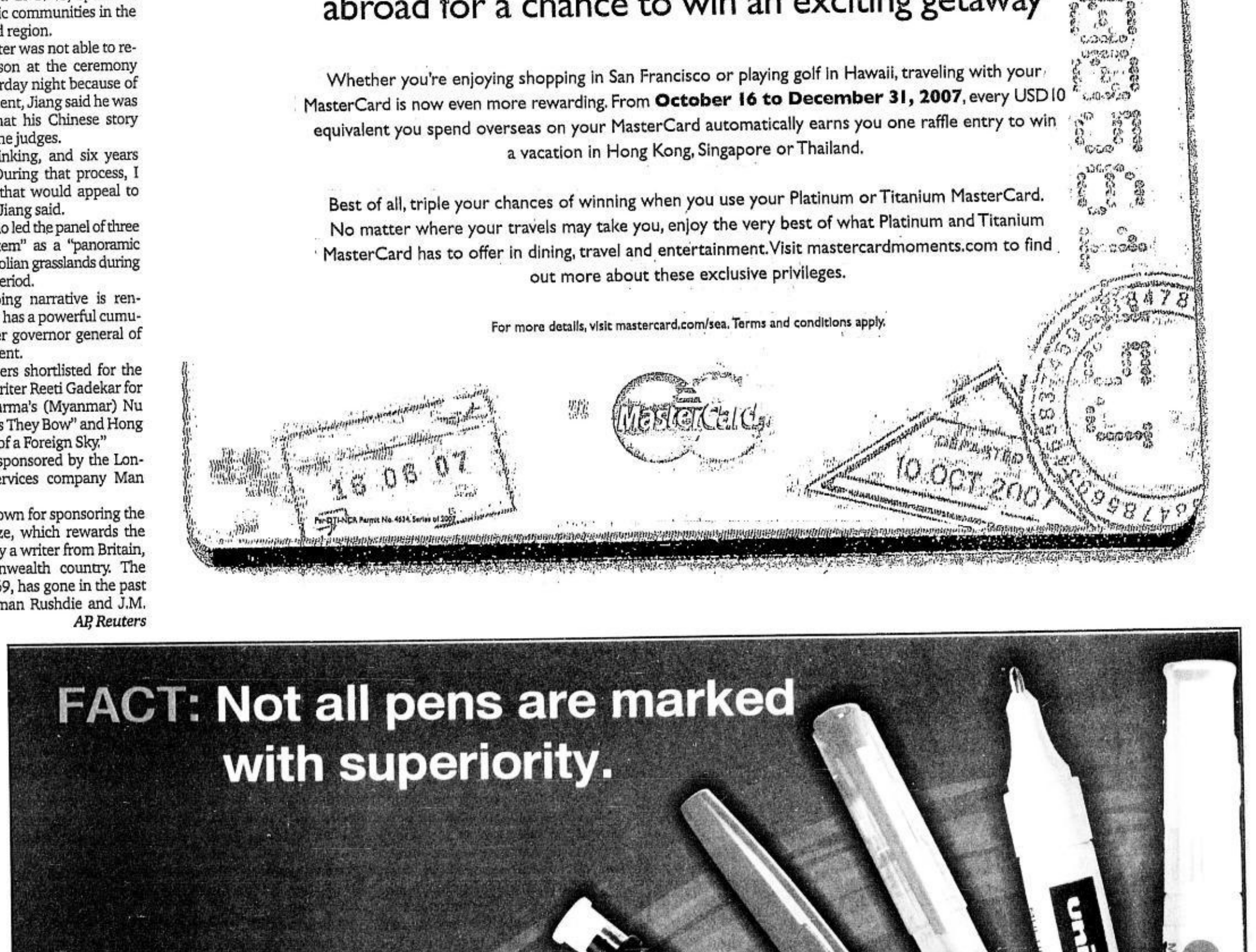


Musical by deaf students

TO CELEBRATE this year's centennial of special education in the Philippines—which started with the establishment of the Insular School for the Deaf and the Blind—LINK Center for the Deaf will present "Unsilence Please: A Musical Feast" featuring an all-deaf cast.

The show, which will be presented in cooperation with Rough Rider Jeans, Blues Brothers and the Metro Manila Federation of Agencies for the Deaf, will be on Nov. 16 at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Peta Theater Center, Eymard Drive, New Manila, Quezon City.

Tickets at P100 and P150 may be reserved by calling LINK Center for the Deaf at tel. 426-0382 or 436-5725.



CA backs GSIS claim of teacher with brain disorder

By Leila B. Salaverria

AN OVERWORKED PUBLIC school teacher who traveled long distances every day for three decades to teach her students is entitled to receive compensation for a rare brain disorder she contracted while working, according to the Court of Appeals.

The appellate court directed the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to pay 59-year-old Carmenia Salvatierra disability compensation benefits as a result of contracting Parkinson's Disease, an ailment that affects motor functions and whose exact cause has not yet been determined.

"Petitioner, a public school elementary school teacher who gave the best 31 years of her life in the government service and who in the process, contracted Parkinson's Disease, is entitled to compensatory benefits corresponding to her claim," it said in its Oct. 9 decision.

Salvatierra, a teacher at the Dr. Albert Elementary School in Manila for 31 years, left her job in 2004.

She started showing symptoms of Parkinson's Disease in 2002—rest tremors, slight rigidity, mask-like face—which became more pronounced in the next two years.

After her diagnosis, she filed a claim for disability compensation benefits with the GSIS, which the latter denied because it claimed that Parkinson's Disease was not an occupational disease.

Decision overturned

The GSIS decision was upheld by the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC), prompting Salvatierra to elevate the issue to the appellate court.

In its ruling in favor of Salvatierra, the court said that while Parkinson's was not an occupational disease, the teacher was still entitled to compensation since the cause of the disease was not clinically known and she contracted it while she was working.

It pointed out that Salvatierra had been teaching elementary students for 31 years. All this time, she traveled every week day from Biñan in Laguna to Sampaloc in Manila just to teach.

The appellate court added that her job "exposed her to air pollutants, gases, fumes, vapor and dust; rapid variations in temperature, high humidity and bad weather; physical, mental, psychological and emotional stress or pressure, including overwork and fatigue."

All these, it said, could have triggered Parkinson's Disease.

AMERICAN officers salute during yesterday's Veterans' Day ceremonies held at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. RYAN LIM

At 24, Fil-Am soldier joins war veterans

From page A1

the US Army, which he had served for three years.

Because of his severe injuries, he is now "medically retired" from military service. Sibug has been in the Philippines for five months now and plans to spend Christmas with his mother whom he has not seen for quite some time.

He is mulling things over, trying to decide whether he should study nursing, go back to the United States, or just "have fun."

"I realize this is my second life," Sibug told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Veterans' Day

Sibug and other war veterans much older than him were honored at the annual Veterans' Day ceremonies held yesterday at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Representing the veterans who fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sibug stood proud and snappy in fatigues and beret.

He took his rightful place beside the other veterans who fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The ceremonies, led by US Ambassador to Manila Kristie Kenney and Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, paid tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of these men and women.

'Living reminders'

In his brief speech, Romulo said the veterans were "living reminders" of the long journey toward freedom the world now enjoys.

At yesterday's tribute, the old soldiers basked in the glorious memories of their heroism as Kenney, government officials, Filipino and American soldiers, and their families shook their hands and had pictures taken with them.

An 89-year-old veteran, Frederick Viloan Jr., was in a wheelchair, aided by his relatives. He could no longer remember which war he had fought but he smiled and waved at those who greeted him.

"It is our duty to honor these veterans by ensuring that we will never again go to war. Our responsibility is to ensure that the guns of war will remain forever silent. And we can only learn and live these lessons of war when we remember," Romulo said.

New battle

He stressed that there was a "new battle to win the hearts and minds of people against the threats of terrorism, extremism and poverty."

For his part, Sibug said he had seen "the best and the worst ... of being in the military ... of the fight against terrorism."

He also said he would never forget the kinship he experienced in the US Army.

"They accepted me and treated me like a brother," said Sibug, who was 18 when he migrated to the United States in 2000 with his father and three brothers.

Chubby may be the new healthy ...

From page A1

of Men's Health. They're thin. Their eyes are bright. They look like they're bursting with energy.

They may be. But they might be better off if they had listened to their grandmother and put a little meat on those bones.

Chubby may be the new healthy. Who knows if it will be the new beautiful?

Two years ago, researchers found that overweight people had the lowest mortality rate of any weight group. Researchers later linked causes of death to specific weights.

Obese people had more deaths from heart disease, researchers reported last week. Thin people had more deaths from everything but cancer and heart disease.

But there were 100,000 fewer deaths among the overweight than would have been expected if those people had been of normal weight.

This is what might politely be called the chubby category, with body mass indexes (a measure of weight for height) of 25 to 30. A woman, for instance, who is 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs between 146 and 175 pounds.

All about class, control

Some social scientists say that being thin really isn't about health, but about social class and control.

When food was scarce and expensive, only the rich could afford to be fat. In the 19th century, well-to-do men with paunches joined Fat Men's Clubs, which gave rise to the term "fat cat."

Heavy women of that era were stage stars. Lillian Russell weighed 200 pounds.

Those notions of fashion gradually gave way to a more streamlined physique.

The body mass indexes of Miss America winners, according to a 2000 study, have been decreasing since 1922. In recent years, as many as two-thirds of women and more than half of men have expressed dissatisfaction with their weight.

Henry VIII-Oprah effect

How did we get to this point?

George Armelagos, an anthropologist at Emory University, calls it the King Henry VIII-Oprah Winfrey effect.

Henry VIII, king of England in the 16th century, "was huge," which was a symbol of his wealth, Armelagos said. For Henry VIII to get that way, "it took 100 people collecting food for him and cooking it."

Compare that with billionaire Oprah Winfrey. "She has to have a dietitian and cook and a trainer so she doesn't get to be like that," Armelagos said.

Today, poorer people are most likely to be fat. And so, "fatness is associated with downward mobility," according to Abigail Saguy, a sociologist at UCLA.

Weight has become a moral issue couched in health concerns, according to Saguy. *New York Times News Service*

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QC food company ordered to pay P1-M fine for polluting drains

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APpeals has ordered a Quezon City food processing company to pay more than P1 million in fines for discharging polluted wastewater into the public drainage system for over three years.

The court junked the petition of Jona's International Philippines Inc., maker and exporter of bottled fruit preserves and banana chips, to have the P1.1-million fine imposed on it by the Laguna Lake Development Authority in 2005 reduced because it was not operating during some of the agency's inspection tours.

But the appellate court found that the claim was not true. The court gave weight to the observation of the Office of the Solicitor General that the LLDA inspected Jo-na's operations on Aug. 5, 1998, and took wastewater samples on Dec. 14, 1998, although the company said it was not operating between July 22 to Aug. 9, 1998, and from Dec. 8, 1998 to February 1999.

The OSG also said the plant was operating on Nov. 3, 1999 when the LLDA inspected it although Jo-na's said it had no operating schedule from Oct. 21 to Nov. 7, 1999.

Nonoperating

"We believe and so hold that petitioner's argument does not hold water. Clearly, as pointed out by the OSG, petitioner's summary of nonoperating days and its production logbooks contradict with the reports submitted by LLDA's Environmental Protection Division," the court said in its Oct. 26 decision.

It said findings of administrative agencies were usually accorded respect if there was no error of law or fraud found in the decision.

The LLDA inspected Jo-na's in August 1997 and found its wastewater did not comply with effluent standards based on acidity, total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand and oil or grease.

The LLDA ordered the company to explain why its operations should not be stopped, and directed it to pay a fine of P1,000 per day until it improved its effluent standards.

In February 1998, Jo-na's was given time to put in place corrective measures. The company said it had installed a wastewater treatment facility to be completed in 1999.

Not yet finished

But the LLDA monitoring team in August 1998 found the company continued its operations even though the wastewater treatment plant was not yet finished, discharging its waste into the municipal drains.

It was only in December 2000 that inspection showed Jo-na's wastewater conformed to standards.

But barely two years later, in May 2002, Jo-na's was again found to have violated effluent standards.

The LLDA directed the company to pay the daily penalty from Aug. 26, 1997 to Dec. 11, 2000, and from May 9 to Oct. 1, 2002, totaling P1.115 million.

Fr. Ed, Inquirer columnists at ASAP

PAMPANGO PRIEST-TURNED-GOVERNOR Ed Panlilio and three INQUIRER columnists will be among the featured speakers at the annual conference of the American Studies Association of the Philippines (ASAP).

Celebrating the centenary of the first Philippine Assembly, the ASAP conference will gather scholars, government officials and leading journalists on Nov. 17 to discuss "Philippine Democracy in the 21st Century: American Influences and Local Habitations."

Fr. Ed will discuss people empowerment. Raul Pangalangan, former dean of the UP College of Law and twice teaching fellow at Harvard University, will lecture on the American roots of Philippine democracy. Columnist Manuel Quezon III will speak on the challenges facing Philippine democracy from a journalist's perspective. Editor John Nery will explore the concept and the consequences of "Internet democracy."

Other speakers at the event, which will be held at the National Computer Center at UP Diliman, include Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Mary Ann Marchadesch and Prof. Helen Yu-Rivera. For inquiries and early bird discounts, e-mail ASAP president Dr. Corazon Villareal at cdvillareal@yahoo.com or call the UP Department of English and Comparative Literature, at 926-3496 or 426-3668 or 0917-8338203.

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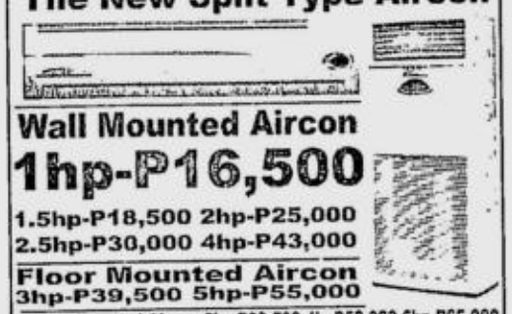

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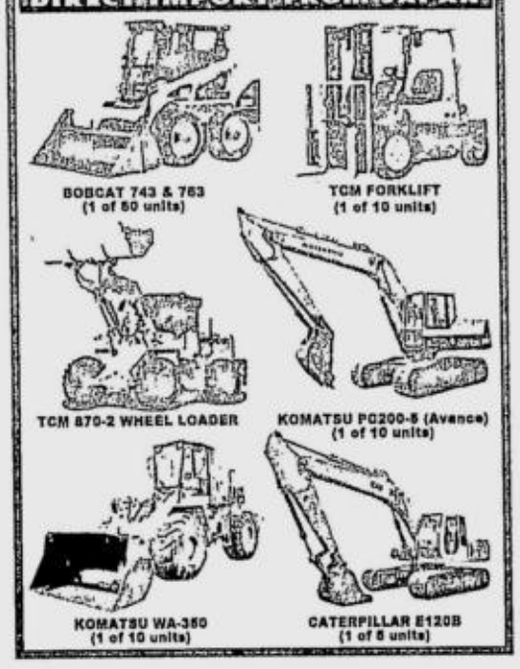

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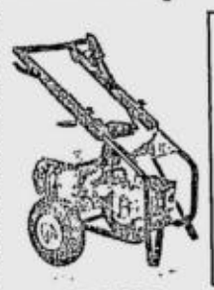

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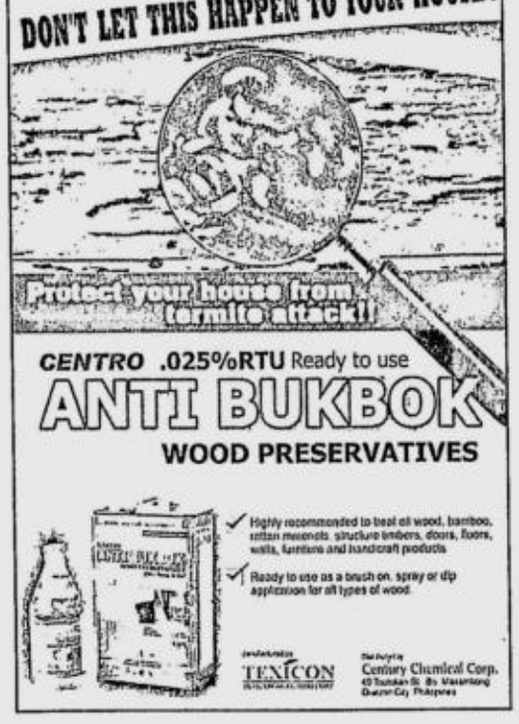

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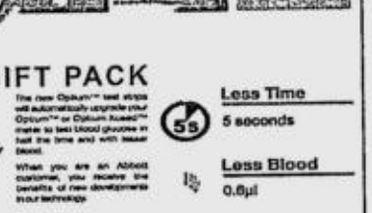

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Canada gives Pacificador another chance

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A principal accused in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier has evaded deportation from Canada yet again after a Canadian court ordered a third hearing on his bid for refugee status.

The Federal Court of Canada (FCC) set aside the decision of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) rejecting for the second time the application for refugee status of Rodolfo "Ding" Pacificador.

The 35-page order dated Oct. 15 is posted on the FCC website http://decisions.fct-cf.gc.ca/en/2007/2007fc1050/2007fc1050.html.

The decision penned by Justice Yves de Montigny ordered another refugee hearing by a different IRB panel on the grounds that the IRB had failed to consider that Pacificador could face "lengthy and arbitrary detention" and that there was 'a serious possibility or reasonable chance he will be tortured or mistreated" in the Philippines.

Principal accused

Pacificador, 51, is among the principal accused in Javier's murder who have remained at large.

Javier, then 43, was gunned down in broad daylight on Feb. 11, 1986, by heavily armed men in a public plaza during the canvassing of votes for the snap presidential elections. Four bystanders were wounded.

Javier was then a leader of the opposition against the Marcos dictatorship.

Pacificador, along with his father, former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, was a staunch Marcos ally.

Witnesses testified that Rodolfo Pacificador had met with Eduardo Iran, alias Boy Muslim, the alleged leader of the gunmen who shot Javier, before and after Javier was killed.

Pacificador allegedly gave Iran and his henchmen money, food and shelter.

On Oct. 12, 2004, the Antique Regional Trial Court acquitted Arturo Pacificador and three other accused. The court, however, found Arturo's lawyer, Avelino Javellana, and seven others, mostly bodyguards of the former assemblyman, guilty of Javier's murder.

Mastermind

In the decision rendered by Judge Rudy Castrojas, the court said Rodolfo Pacificador played a key role in the planning and commission of Javier's murder.

Castrojas said the testimony of prosecution witnesses showed Rodolfo "ran the affairs, so to speak..."

"Based on the evidence on record, it appears that (Rodolfo) was the mastermind (of Javier's killing)," Castrojas had said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Rodolfo fled to Canada shortly after the killing, going via Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States before arriving in Canada on Sept. 29, 1987. He claimed refugee status at the port of entry at Niagara Falls.

He was detained in Canada for seven years until he was freed on bail in 1998.

On Oct. 19, 1996, the Canadian Justice Ministry ordered his extradition to the Philippines but the order was reversed by the Ontario Court of Appeals on Aug. 1, 2002, on the grounds that the Philippines could not guarantee him a fair and speedy trial.

No refugee status

The Canadian Supreme Court affirmed the rejection of the petition in February 2003.

The IRB twice rejected Pacificador's application for refugee status because it said Pacificador was neither a refugee nor a person in need of protection, according to the FCC order.

It rejected Pacificador's arguments that he would not get a fair trial in the Philippines and would face political persecution and could be "extrajudicially executed."

The board pointed out his father was acquitted of the charges and his trial "was conducted in accordance with the rules of natural justice."

It also said that none of the accused in Javier's murder had been extrajudicially executed and there had never been an attempt on the elder Pacificador's life.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 12, 2007
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Josaphat

1st Reading: Wisdom 1:1-7
Gospel: Luke 17:1-6

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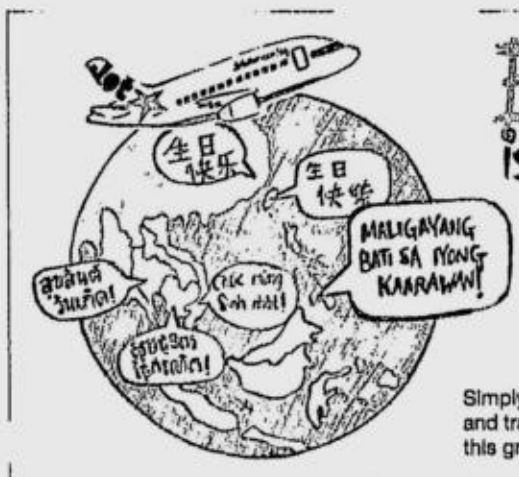
"Be careful. If your brother offends you, rebuke him and if he is sorry, forgive him. And if he offends you seven times in a day but says to you seven times: 'I'm sorry,' forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this tree: 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Commentary

This is wisdom: love justice and seek the Lord. Are we those who have learned wisdom and are apprentices to the Spirit of truth and gentleness (meekness and nonviolence) or do we do evil, speak untruthfully and destructively and so, are in need of God's rebuke? Jesus warns us that there will be scandals in the world and among those who believe. We had better be on our guard that it is not we who give that scandal and cause others to stumble and fall. We must make sure that we are forgiving, that we correct with kindness, and that we are not the reason why others sin. If only our faith were as small as a mustard seed, we could change the situations in the world that are unjust, destructive of human life, and cause so many to live in misery and without hope. Let us pray for faith—a faith that is wise and does justice for those most in need.



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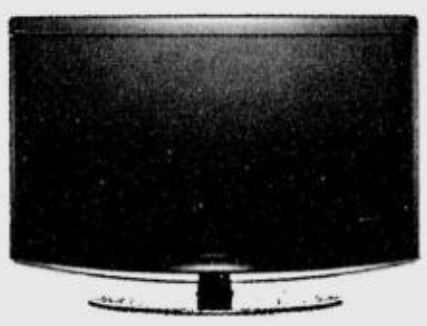

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

THE IDEA SEEMED GOOD ON PAPER. CREATE AN independent search committee to propose the most qualified candidates for chairman of the Commission on Elections. Theory, however, is no match (as we like to say in the Philippines) for practice—because politics as it is practiced in the Philippines in the post-Estrada impeachment era is motivated not by theory but by self-interest alone. We are afraid that the screening committee may be compromised by the very politics of survival it is supposed to counter.

After President Macapagal-Arroyo formed the committee last week, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye explained its function in action-oriented terms. It "shall screen potential candidates with the end view of submitting to the Office of the President for its consideration a short list of qualified candidates," Bunye said.

But the inclusion of long-time National Movement for Free Elections leader Jose Concepcion, trade unionist Democrito Mendoza and Palace official Bernardino Abes in the committee prompted a new group, the Center for Anti-Graft and Corruption Prevention, to sound the alarm. "We have a deep fear that they [the three members mentioned] could not freely withstand any secret and crucial instructions to protect the desires and interests of the appointing authority," the group's secretary general told the media.

Even if these members of the committee, or the others the President named to it, all acted honorably and independently, however, they will still labor under a limited mandate. Their recommendations will not be ranked according to their order of preference, and would not bind the President. In other words, and unlike the selection of Supreme Court appointees from a short list voted upon by the Judicial and Bar Council, the President is free to disregard the recommendations.

What does that, potentially, make of the committee? A fig leaf, to cover naked ambition.

The track record of the Arroyo administration does not exactly inspire confidence. One reason why the appointment of the newest election commissioner, Moslemen Macarambon, generated so much controversy is because it came on the heels of the disclosure, by incumbent Comelec commissioners, of a Palace short list of candidates, which included the President's election lawyer, Romulo Makalintal, and oppositionists Rene Saguisag and Rufus Rodriguez.

Macarambon, however, was not on that list. Conclusion: The Palace is not averse to using the commissioners of a constitutional agency to float a political trial balloon, or to signal a Palace feint.

The formation of a screening committee, therefore, is as welcome as another shameless twist, another cynical turn, in the administration's ceaseless political maneuvering.

But, Mrs. President, do you really need a screening committee of eminent citizens to tell you what you must and must not do?

The lessons of history already point us in the right direction.

First, and above all else, do not appoint a politician. The sorriest periods in Comelec history occurred during the watch of two pliant, thoroughly political animals. Ferdinand Marcos had his Leonardo Perez, a former senator and (after resignation from the Commission) a political adviser; **you** had the even more pliable lawyer-who-rose-from-poverty, former mayor and party leader Benjamin Abalos. The Comelec was rehabilitated after the political plunder of the Marcos years with the help of non-political, certainly non-partisan chairmen: Ramon Felipe Jr., Hilario Davide, Christian Monsod, Bernardo Pardo, Harriet Demetriou, Alfredo Benipayo. What does this list tell us? Since the first flourish of People Power, it was only you, Mrs. President, who appointed a professional politician as chairman.

Second, do not appoint a lawyer without a backbone, someone who cannot say no. Abalos' own less-than-credible version of events related to the ZTE scandal already proves one thing: He cannot turn anybody down. Every request for an introduction, for a meeting, for use of certain facilities, he in time learned to accommodate. We need a chairman who can say no.

Third, do not appoint someone who has your number.

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Court stops tax abuse by Bataan gov't

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I ADMIRED AND SUPPORTED GOV. ENRIQUE "Tet" Garcia of Bataan when he was still a congressman. Almost single-handedly, he fought the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Law as it was passed because instead of breaking up the oligopoly of oil companies, it only expanded it.

The law's intention was to deregulate the local oil refining industry to encourage other oil companies to come here and compete with the three entrenched oil giants—Petron, Shell and Caltex. Competition forces prices down. Other countries that also deregulated their oil industries have open-ended transition periods during which price control is implemented, to give the new players time to compete with the giants. Our law gave itself a transition period of six months, but President Fidel Ramos reduced it to two months, thus making the law a farce. How can a newcomer set up shop and compete with established oil companies in just two months?

What Tet had warned about is happening now. Fuel prices are rising fast, not only because of the price rises in the international market, but also because the oil deregulation law is a failure. The small newcomers, instead of competing with the Big Three, joined the oligopoly. Many of them just buy their refined products from the Big Three and sell them to their customers with a markup. Sometimes they even beat the Big Three in raising prices. Then-Congressman Garcia was right in opposing the oil deregulation law and somebody should take up the fight (his son succeeded him as congressman but is not doing anything to follow through with what his father started).

Now that Tet is governor of Bataan, however, he is still fighting the oil companies but has changed tactics. Instead of using reason, he is now using strong-arm methods, even blackmail, to squeeze them. I don't agree with him this time.

What has he done? He doubled the real property tax assessments on Petron. The oil firm, half-owned by the Philippine government, has paid Bataan P1.675 billion in taxes since 1994 but Tet wants another P1.7 billion in alleged unpaid taxes from 1994 to the first half of 2007. When Petron contested the assessment, Tet's treasurer scheduled last Oct. 17 the sale at public auction of assets of the oil firm. *Hindi ba* overacting na 'yan? Under the law, a taxpayer can contest a real property tax assessment at the Local Board of Assessment Appeals (LBAA).

Petron went to court and got a temporary restraining order and later a preliminary injunction. The court said Petron was denied due process when the Bataan treasurer scheduled the auction of its assets as the tax assessment of its properties was not yet final and still had to be resolved by the LBAA.

The court also noted that Petron has submitted a surety bond to cover the supposed taxes and that this has been approved by the Central Board of Assessment Appeals (CBAA) in lieu of a cash deposit. The CBAA has also ordered the LBAA to proceed with the resolution of Petron's appeal on the revised assessments.

Records show that Petron had been religiously paying its real property taxes, even advancing payments to the province of Bataan. Petron is the leading oil refining and marketing company in the Philippines. Its 180,000 barrel-a-day refinery supplies nearly 40 percent of the country's fuel requirements.

* * *

A very cruel and sadistic pastime, dogfighting, is increasing in the Philippines despite the prohibition by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). In these fights, dogs, often pit bulls, are made to fight in an enclosure, sometimes to the death, while humans watch and put wagers on them. If the dogs are not killed outright, they suffer so much injury that they either become incapacitated permanently or later die ofinfection. Filipinos keep pit bulls as pets asa status symbol, a very dangerous mistake, especially with children around, as pit bulls are bred to attack. They appear docile at times, but you can never tell when their instinct to attack will suddenly prompt them to attack humans, even their masters.

Local government units, especially barangays, should prevent dogfights in their jurisdictions but they don't and this exposes them to charges of dereliction of duty. It is only the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) that is trying to have the AWA law enforced. (AWA also prohibits horse-fighting, but this is still being done during town fiestas in the South without the police, Bureau of Animal Industry and local government officials doing anything about it.)

Last March 31, PAWS and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) raided a dogfighting arena in sitio Kaysakat, Antipolo City. Fourteen participants, including three Thai nationals, were arrested; two dogs were confiscated and taken to the PAWS Animal Rescue Center to be treated for their injuries and rehabilitated. The Thais slipped out of the country during the Holy Week holidays. PAWS is pushing for the issuance of arrest warrants for the Thais and the other participants in the dogfight as only the alleged operator of the arena (one Danny Tan) as well as a handful of others have warrants of arrest.

Since the accused were caught red-handed, the defense tactic is to delay the case. At the arraignment last Friday, the defense lawyer objected to the participation of a PAWS lawyer even though existing jurisprudence allows private lawyers, while under the direction of the government prosecutor, to participate in trials. The judge should be wary of dilatory tactics, as this is the first dogfighting case to be prosecuted and will set the example for future cases.

New life

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

YOU CAN'T BE A HUMAN BEING AND NOT BE devastated by what Mariannet Amper has done. The flood of text messages and e-mail that came my way last Thursday from friends and strangers for no other reason than just to be able to tell someone they cried when they read about her life, or death, testifies to it.

One friend, who has a 7-year-old of her own, put it so well so simply: By rights Mariannet's world should only have been about school and play. By rights it should have been full of love and laughter. That her world should instead only be about care and woe, indeed that it should have no light or hope, it's just—not right.

Another said he could not imagine someone who deserved to live more. This was a girl who so missed school that being absent for a couple of days took on the aspect of being gone for a month. And she had to miss school again and again for many reasons, not least because she had no money for fare, for bag, for school work. That was quite apart from the fact that she had to help her mother wash clothes for others to try to put food on the table, an effort that often proved futile. Given the kids today who have to be forced to go to school and who find ways to stay out of it anyway, my text-writer said, there's just no justice in this world.

I share their sentiments completely. What continues to assail me about Mariannet's brain-numbing act of self-destruction was that she was clearly an intelligent and sensitive 12-year-old. One who never had a chance to have a childhood, being shoved to adulthood almost as soon as she came into this world. That is seen in her wish list, written in secret in her diary, which included a bicycle, a school bag and jobs for her parents. How many 12-year-olds given an opportunity to ask for anything in the world would think of a school bag and jobs for her parents? Only the bicycle is there to remind us—or drive home the point, like a nail on a coffin—that Mariannet was still a child. An achingly tender and innocent mind set adrift in a world that should have been full of light and wonder but was in fact one where wishes like hers never came true.

Had she lived, that would probably have been the case. And the people who now rush to make her dreams come true in death only produce a cruel irony, driving home the obscene truth that in this country the only way the lifeless can find life is through death. It's enough to make you cynical, if not angry. Especially the part about Malacañang giving P5,000 and asking the family Mariannet left behind what else they needed. When the only thing else they needed could never be brought back to them.

Even easier to see how Mariannet was a sensitive child. Malacañang is right: Mariannet is an "isolated" case. But so in ways that go nowhere near their contemplation—or projection of this country as a place where the wunderkind live in an Enchanted Kingdom. There is nothing isolated about Mariannet's plight, there is nothing isolated about people in this country living lives of not very quiet desperation. They are all around us, living lives of loud and disquieting agony and riot, dying literally from hunger if they cannot stave it off by plucking food out of the hands of others with knife or gun. You do not need statistics to show the size and shape and savagery of the beast, you need only your five senses.

The beast is not just out there, in the "countryside," it is right here in the heart of the city. You just stray a little away from your home, and you will not stray into another neighborhood, you will stray into another world. A world where a dozen people are able to squeeze like circus performers into breathable space separated from the next one by cardboard, tin cans, and the posters of candidates; a world where taxi drivers are knifed to death in the dark of night for a thousand bucks.

No, there is nothing isolated about Mariannet's plight. But there is something completely isolated, or rare, in her decision to end her life. That is the true tragedy of it. For unlike those whose brains had been dulled into narcotic stupor by hunger and brutality, whose hearts had turned to stone by the indifference and vileness of their world, Manette was still aware of what was happening around her. Unlike those whose eyes had been left vacant by deprivation, whose ears, noses, mouths and bodies had been deadened by a living death, Mariannet felt the pain of what was happening around her. If she kept a diary, such as her circumstances had taught her to read and write, probably acutely so.

Proof of it is that she took her own life. Not everyone commits suicide, true. Sadly the ones who do are often those still capable of hurting. Easy to lose hope; not so easy to know you've lost hope. Easy to drift into a living death, all you have to do is be stripped of your senses. Not so easy to see you are about to become one of the zombies, and have the strength to do something about it.

Mariannet's death has brought this nation to a state of grief and outrage, expostulation and introspection, such as few things have, and rightly so. If the shock of her dying has made you a little more caring and compassionate and determined to make life better for others, while suddenly deeply thankful for all the blessings you have, then maybe Mariannet's death might have meant something after all. Indeed, if the obscenity of her dying has somehow roused this country from its zombie-like stupor, from its denizens dragging off their carcasses in living death, unable to see and feel and get angry, just murmuring in a daze, "let's move on, let's move on ...," then Mariannet's life might have meant something after all.

Who knows? Maybe in self-inflicted death, a 12-year-old has just given us a new lease on life.

Jpepa reservations

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN AN INCREASINGLY GLOBALIZED WORLD, NAtions enter into economic partnership with other nations. We did it through our participation in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and once again it is being proposed that we enter into partnership with Japan through a Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement.

Agreements of this nature necessarily involve economic give and take. Through treaties nations give up control of a portion of their sovereign jurisdiction through commitments made in favor of other nations. Limits to the commitments made are embodied in reservations.

Reservations are important because they contain the limitations on the commitments made. Without such reservations the commitments are read as unlimited. When a state has failed to incorporate in a treaty the desired reservations, it may not appeal to reservations made in its own domestic laws when the economic partners make demands on the commitments made in a treaty. International law says, "Every State has the duty to carry out in good faith its obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, and it may not invoke provisions in its constitutions or its laws as an excuse for failure to perform this duty."

This is an important point to keep in mind because failure to make the necessary reservations can tie the hands of our policymakers. Why so? Because a treaty has a dual character. It is both domestic law and international law. In domestic litigation, statutory reservations, if made after entry into a treaty, can prevail over treaty commitments. This is not so in international litigation because "Every State has the duty to carry out in good faith its obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, and it may not invoke provisions in its constitutions or its laws as an excuse for failure to perform this duty."

The Jpepa treaty document is a wide-ranging economic partnership agreement. Commitments are made on various aspect of the economy. Does the treaty contain the reservations needed to give the Philippines flexibility for the future?

Commitments made can touch on both constitutional and statutory principles governing our economy. The treaty has been faulted by critics on both constitutional and statutory grounds. Let me touch only on some of the constitutional issues even if I am aware that the statutory problems may also need attention.

1. Critics say that the treaty violates Article XII, Section 2 which reserves acquisition of land and the utilization and exploration of all natural resources within the archipelago for Filipino citizens and Filipino corporations.

For their part, government officials seem satisfied that Annex 6 Part 1-B, on services, contains the specific provision that "all lands of the public domain are owned by the State. Only citizens of the Philippines or corporations or associations at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by such citizens may own land other than public lands or acquire public lands through lease." The same provision is contained in the Philippine reservations for the manufacturing sector in Annex 7 Part 1-B.

2. Critics say that the treaty violates Article XII, Section 11, by opening the operation of public utilities to Japan.

But again state officials say that specific limitations provided in Annex 6 recognize that foreigners can only have 40-percent participation in the operation of public utilities, as allowed by the Constitution, and also prescribe that the participation of Japan in public utility boards will also be a maximum of 40 percent.

3. It is also said that the practice of all professions limited by Article XII, Section 14 is being opened up to foreigners.

But again, government officials say that the RP Schedule contains a horizontal limitation in professional services that requires satisfaction of the reciprocity rule provided for in existing domestic legislation, and provides that the Philippine Government is not obliged to recognize services output of foreign services suppliers not duly registered in the Philippines.

4. Critics also say that the treaty opens up ownership, control and administration of educational institutions in violation of Article XIV, Section 4(2).

But the other side says that the RP Schedule in Annex 6 contains a specific provision that educational institutions, other than those established by religious groups or mission boards, shall be owned only by citizens of the Philippines or corporations or associations at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by such citizens. It also provides flexibility for Congress to require in the future an increased Filipino participation in the equity. Control and administration are also vested only in citizens of the Philippines.

5. Critics say that the treaty opens up ownership and management of mass media to foreigners in violation of Article XVI, Section 22(1).

However, government people say that this is not a problem because the treaty makes no specific commitments on mass media. Thus, under the positive list approach, there is no need to make any reservation because the Philippines can legitimately impose the 100-percent Filipino equity requirement under article XVI, Section 11(1) of the Philippine Constitution, notwithstanding the lack of any reservation or inscription in the Jpepa.

6. It is also said the Jpepa opens up the advertising industry to the Japanese.

Again the RP Schedule in Annex 6 is said to contain the specific limitation that only up to 30-percent foreign equity is allowed to foreigners, as allowed by the Constitution.

I have verified the answers given by government, but my understanding of the position paper presented to the Senate by former Justice Florentino Feliciano, recognized both here and abroad as an expert on the subject, is that while he may be aware of these reservations found in Annex 6, he does not consider them adequate for protecting Philippine interests. He must know something which we don't. It will do well for the Senate to find out what Justice Feliciano is thinking.

I am a diabetic

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST WEDNESDAY WAS THE 57TH FOUNDATION ANniversary of the Philippine Marine Corps. It was on Nov. 7, 1950 that the first Marine Company was formally organized and designated "A" Company of a proposed Marine Battalion. Lt. (SG) Manuel Gomez, a member of PMA class 1941, was given command of the new unit with direct responsibility for organizing, training and developing what would be one of the finest fighting units of the AFP. Only volunteers were taken in and after five months of intensive training, they were thrown into battle against Hukbalahaps—forerunners of the NPA—who posed a serious threat not only in Central Luzon but also in the heart of Manila.

Since then, the Marines have never left the combat zone. Lately, they have been in the forefront in the fight against Moro secessionists in the South, with two of their officers winning the Medal of Valor, the nation's highest award for bravery in combat. Col. Custodio Parcon, class of 1987, and Col. Ariel Querubin, class of 1979, were cited for heroic action against Abu Sayyaf and MILF elements. A Marine enlisted man, PFC Nestor Acero, was also awarded posthumously the same medal for "outstanding gallantry in the face of ferocious enemy fire." Recovery teams found Acero's body along with the bodies of 30 or more outlaws in his periphery, his left arm cradling the neck of a fellow Marine.

Wherever the Marines are assigned, they have always been welcomed as soldiers of the people. One rarely hears of abuses or forced disappearances in areas covered by Marine units. Such is their reputation for discipline and professionalism, and therefore it is difficult to understand how any group of men could be so cruel, going to the extent of mutilating and beheading their Marine captives.

Twenty-nine officers and men who were killed in two separate incidents four months ago were remembered by the Corps as it marked its 57th anniversary. Widows and girlfriends gathered at Marine Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio to honor the sacrifices of their men. Their presence served as a poignant reminder that for them, justice has been elusive.

Four months ago, Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga was the head of the Marine Corps. Today, Allaga commands AFP units in Western Mindanao, an area of operations that includes Basilan where our Marines fell in battle. Such an important command assignment offers opportunities for regaining lost prestige for the Corps which he once led. We wish him success in his endeavors.

* * *

The United Nations has declared Wednesday, Nov. 14, as World Diabetes Day. It is the first time that the world organization has set aside a day aimed at creating a greater awareness of the threat to world health posed by this noninfectious disease. In the past, such action was taken with regard to infectious ailments like tuberculosis, malaria and AIDS.

For many years, I was not even aware that diabetes was a disease. With my sweet tooth, chocolates, ice cream and candy—in any amount—were things I took for granted as part of the good life. The only admonition I heard about taking too much of sweets was its effect on my teeth. And to my mind, brushing them every day was good enough to keep the doctor or dentist away.

Ten years ago, just before undergoing a triple coronary bypass operation, my doctors informed me that I had diabetes. Like many things in life, the idea of having to cut down on one of my favorite indulgences did not register immediately. And I continued on my merry ways. Only when nocturnal visits to the bathroom became more frequent did I realize that something was wrong with my system. It was too late. From oral medication, I graduated to shots of insulin.

Today I am paying the price for not taking seriously the danger posed by diabetes. The disease itself may not kill you but the complications will—amputations below the knee, blindness, kidney failure requiring dialysis or even a transplant, a possible heart attack in the wee hours of the morning or on the golf course.

Today the most important items when I travel abroad are not my clothes or shoes or jackets. The most important articles in my luggage are my blood sugar testing paraphernalia along with a vial of insulin and the accompanying syringe or needle. I am insulin-dependent. This is not to say that I would die without these items but they go a long way in keeping me strong and healthy.

One can avoid getting to the insulin stage. All it requires are a disciplined diet and regular exercise like 30 minutes a day on the treadmill, or on a bicycle or just plain walking. There are also all kinds of sugar-free goodies on the market. But even with these items, it is best to observe moderation.

Diabetics suffer from too much sugar in the blood, a state known as hyperglycemia, or from very low sugar levels known as hypoglycemia. In either case, it involves the release of water from the body. Hyperglycemia results in frequent urination while one indication of hypoglycemia is excessive sweating.

Some interesting notes on diabetes. The full name of the illness is "diabetes mellitus." "Diabetes" comes from the Greek word for siphon and implies that a lot of urine is made. "Mellitus" comes from the Latin word "mel," which means honey, and the two were combined because the urine was sweet. (Scientists discovered that ants were attracted to the urine of animals under observation.)

It was a Canadian scientist, Dr. F.G. Banting, who discovered that a hormone produced by our pancreas keeps sugar levels normal. This achievement earned him a Nobel Prize in medicine. When the pancreas does not function well and does not produce enough hormones, the sugar level rises. To correct this, a replacement hormone called "insulin" from the Latin word "insula" (meaning isle or island—the shape of the pancreas) is injected into the patient's bloodstream.

Of late, there have been attempts to come up with an inhalation system for administering insulin. However, they have not been too successful and were recently taken off the market. Another method being developed involves the use of insulin patches attached to various parts of the body. Unfortunately, these experiments also did not prosper.

For many Filipinos who may not be able to afford insulin, the native remedies, like tea made from ampalaya or banaba leaves, have proven effective and provide the best hope for the great majority of our countrymen.

A comedy of errors

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

"OH WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE," WHEN we endeavor to deceive, or so Sir Walter Scott said.

The trouble with tangled webs is that the spinners themselves, not the spiders, get hopelessly, shamelessly trapped in them.

And the trouble with the Arroyo administration is that it has spun web upon web in all seven years of its existence with such incredible impunity that it can no longer disentangle itself, not even to satisfy its instinct for survival.

Of course, given the facility with which it has wormed its way out of every crisis with the usual sequential formula of stonewalling, denial, distraction, bribery, twisting the meaning of "democracy" and "rule of law," and the ultimate—grave threats—this administration may last beyond our reasonable expectations.

But apparently, in the public mind, the party's over. It was actually over sometime ago, as soon as we heard Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo say "Hello, Garci."

Because that's when she herself burst her pretty balloon, and now the piper must be paid.

How? Demanding her resignation? Impeachment? Calling for snap elections? Marching in the streets and mailing her "Big Briber" postcards and eviction notices?

These worked in the case of President Joseph Estrada. But for Ms Arroyo, no way. Why on earth should she step down? Or submit herself to impeachment?

After all, we cheered her and boogied ourselves silly that day in January 2001 when at high noon she spun her first web with her take-over speech (please do the recalling yourselves if you wish; I hate to remember how we applauded as with silken promises we got conned into a martial regime in the guise of democracy).

So how will the piper get his due?

You can bet he will; maybe not now, but in due time.

Someday—we hope soon enough—students, political scientists (in particular) and historians, will delve into the remains of the ugliest episode in Philippine politics and record for posterity this abhorrent period in all its horror and, for comic relief, its ludicrousness.

But writers and even journalists can be unreliable in their subjectivity as they tend to interpret events according to their own perceptions.

Not to worry. The wonder of videotape will force truth upon us.

Television stations will air documentaries featuring the lead tape of "Hello, Garci," with video footage of those congressmen carrying paper bags, clips of their admissions and denials; the countless speeches (in a misrule spanning 10 years, you do pile up countless webs) where Ms Arroyo made countless promises that she of course broke countless times, with the special feature of her declaration on the death anniversary of our national hero that she would not run (for the presidency) but that she would leave as her legacy "honest, orderly and peaceful" elections.

What a vast file of reels that would be! Once again we will see in living color Mike Defensor. The Defender, right after his helicopter adventure; Ms Arroyo beaming right after the murder in the airport tower; doing a merry jig with arms raised right after the abortion of the mutiny at Oakwood; triumphant before the altar in the palace chapel reminding us that it was she who won after all, during a Mass she held for Fernando Poe Jr. while thousands were mourning him in a farewell Mass elsewhere; ungracefully being helped to stand up after sitting on the floor during her "pulong-pulong," and many, many more.

Personally, however, although I'm too poor to be a fashionista, I do delight more in fashion than "political noise," and so my wish is that some like-minded TV production specialist will produce a run-down of Ms Arroyo's fashion taste, or rather that of her stylist.

I especially savor her lovely gown during her second Sona that exactly matched the color of the congressional carpet, and the terno she wore to the wedding of the Crown Prince of the Sultanate of Brunei, the blue of which exactly matched the upholstery of the sofa where she and spouse Mike performed the feat of sitting between the newlyweds, their combined bulk almost displacing the bride off her perch. Of course like many others, I am still wondering to this day what that sash was all about.

Unforgettable for sheer impact of course was the khaki-colored attire she wore that day she announced Proclamation 1017, its design obviously inspired by the Nazi auxiliary's uniform that perfectly matched her Hitler bangs. Eva Braun would have drooled with envy. Ah, those good old days of cyanide capsules!

Still, in this winter of our discontent, remember that our destiny lies not in the stars but in ourselves.

Or maybe it would help to revisit the document described as "a masterpiece of political writing," drafted by five men of the Second Continental Congress of the United States, and written in its final form by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, known as the Declaration of Independence. Excerpts:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it..."

Elsewhere, such would be the fitting end of a presidency that really never was.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Don't engage or dignify it

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

ADEL TAMANO HAS DONE HIS CIVIC DUTY. HE did this on Nov. 5, submitting, first, an "Addendum/Supplement" (accompanied by a formal entry of appearance, and a manifestation by Roel Pulido) to the impeachment complaint Pulido had filed. And second, by his submitting a Motion for Reconsideration on Nov. 9, two days after he received a letter from Rep. Matias Defensor, declining to accept the documents submitted by Tamano. You can read both documents for yourself on the INQUIRER Current blog (http://www.inquirerbloggers.net/current/).

I understand that progressive lawmakers have taken it upon themselves to circulate, as much as possible, the Tamano documents among their colleagues in the House. This achieves two things. First, it gives no member of the Committee on Justice in particular or the House in general an excuse to plead ignorance as to the contents of Tamano's submissions. Second, the move enables lawmakers and the public to see for themselves, how the original Pulido complaint needs a backbone, composed of solid arguments and facts, if it is to stand up to any sort of scrutiny.

Tamano's efforts, accomplished with the help of other dedicated lawyers, and the time and energy devoted to making the labors of these lawyers known to legislators and the public alike, are as far as the opposition should go. Having submitted fortifying documentation, having had these documents rejected by a Committee on Justice controlled by the ruling coalition, and having, in turn, made an appeal, the opposition has done its duty by the Constitution and the people. The rest must be left entirely to the ruling coalition, without the opposition lifting a finger to further engage in, or dignify, the proceedings.

This will be a difficult thing to do, but it is a worthy exercise in self-control on the part of the opposition. The choice is clear: engage in the debates in the Committee on Justice, and later, in plenary, and by so doing, legitimizing an abuse of the impeachment process, or standing aside and allowing the public to see what the whole exercise really is: fakery, accompanied by allegations of bribery, a charade by means of legal manipulation in aid of frustrating accountability.

At most, the opposition can make a manifestation: we have done our civic duty, we have tried to fortify the complaint, what is the pleasure of the Committee on Justice, the original endorser of the complaint, and the leadership of this chamber?

At which point Representative Defensor can try to explain why he thinks trying to strengthen a complaint constitutes an entirely different complaint altogether. Which can only mean that what the Committee of Justice wants is something without bite, and which cannot chew, because even if the opposition wants to give it teeth, Defensor and company will insist the thing remains completely defanged.

And then Rep. Edgar San Luis, endorser of the Pulido complaint, can explain why he believes the President of the Philippines should be impeached. Let him do so vigorously. Let him be interpolated by his friends in Kampi, and those he has antagonized in Lakas. And let the opposition just sit there, silent, and observant.

Let the opposition and the public watch Kampi either come to the defense of San Luis, or tear him to pieces, as he tries to spell out in detail every case of commission or omission for which he claims the President ought to be held to account. And let everyone see Lakas either rush to the aid of the President, outshouting each other to sing the praises of the President, or try to outdo each other in trying to show some independence—in the hope of frightening the President into inviting them all to the Palace for another round at the presidential cash buffet.

And when the Committee on Justice votes, as it must inevitably vote, to dismiss the Pulido complaint without even bothering to scrutinize Tamano's submissions, let the opposition simply refuse to dignify the process with a vote and let it do the same when the committee's decision goes before the entire House. The only voices that should be heard, saying how they will vote and why, should come from members of the administration's coalition. No one else who is a real member of the opposition should say one word or make a single gesture.

Then the country will know that the opposition's idea of impeachment is closer to what the public expects, than what the Palace wants. The President dearly wants yet another frustrated impeachment so that she can have another year's bragging rights as the personification of the rule of law. Her allies obviously feel the same way. The public, since 2005, has wanted a solid complaint, debated and decided upon in a sober manner, and at the end of it all, closure by means of an impeachment trial where the President can prove herself innocent or unworthy to continue in office.

Before any solid complaint can be prepared, the Palace has always maneuvered the filing of a weak complaint, immediately endorsed by a congressional ally of the President, and swiftly thrown out by a submissive majority with access to the Palace's cash bar that keeps them drunk on patronage. Yet the President's people know that the trick is getting old, and the trickery's only adding to the ruling coalition's lack of credibility. Which is why its operatives tried to bribe reputable oppositionists to endorse the Pulido complaint, but in the end had to sneak the complaint behind the back of the public, because all it could dig up was Representative San Luis.

All of this is made possible by the Supreme Court's refusing to act on a petition that a group of lawyers filed in September 2005 questioning the ratification of a House committee report junking an amended complaint for impeachment against the President.

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Pollution of the spirit

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN THE BOOK TITLED "PEACE, WAR, AND Politics," America's foremost muckraker, Jack Anderson, takes us into the fascinating world of journalism, starting as a 12-year-old reporter in 1934 for a small-town newspaper, the Murray Eagle in Utah.

He mentions the triumphs and travails of his profession—from scoops to censorship; from preferential treatment to death threats; from inside information to list of enemies, among many others.

In 1989, he had the privilege to interview the playwright-turned-president, Vaclav Havel. Anderson quotes President Havel: "Aside from an almost unbreathable air or undrinkable water, our country faces a worse pollution—a pollution of the spirit. Our people saw nothing wrong with lying to the government that lied to them; our people saw nothing wrong with cheating the government that cheated them; our people saw nothing wrong with stealing from the government that stole from them."

President Havel was referring to Czechoslovakia 18 years ago after the fall of Communism in his beloved country.

Sounds familiar? His sentiments certainly could have been directly applied as fittingly, correctly, suitably and most appropriately to the Filipino people.

Well said and done. After all, we deserve the kind of government we have.

—MANNY CAMARA GUMBAN, mannycgumban@yahoo.com

Side of Philcomsat's Bildner on CA resolution

CONTRARY TO THE NEWS ARTICLE THAT quoted a statement made by Rene Saguisag, legal counsel of PCGG nominee Enrique Locsin, (INQUIRER, 10/20/07), we would like to clarify that the resolution of Court of Appeals Associate Justice Martin S. Villarama Jr. did not mention any "Locsin-Poblador Group"; neither did it uphold the dismissal of the Philcomsat case, based on lack of jurisdiction, by the RTC Makati.

The Court of Appeals resolution in CA GR CV No. 88360, penned by Justice Villarama and promulgated on June 8, 2007, merely dismissed the appeal, filed by one of our principals, on a procedural issue, based on a withdrawal of appeal. The case related to a 1998 Special Stockholders' Meeting of Philcomsat, the validity of which was assailed by our shareholders. As Philcomsat subsequently held another special stockholders' meeting in September 2000, the case was rendered moot and academic, hence the request for its withdrawal.

—LIN I. BILDNER, president, CEO, Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), Telecoms Plaza Bldg., 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

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The article in question was based on a press statement released by a group in Philcomsat which named itself the "Locsin-Poblador Group." I have subsequently interviewed Ms Bildner, and her side has been written in an article that has been submitted for publication.

—DAXIM L. LUCAS, reporter, Inquirer

Bishops' foolishness

EDSA II WAS A MISTake. What guarantee is there that Chief Justice Reynato Puno, whom the bishops want to lead a junta, or anyone else will not be like or worse than the one he's supposed to replace? Righting a wrong with another does not make things right. Even if their suggestion were adopted, there is an election in 2010. Patience is a virtue.

Is governance now part of the bishops' temporal responsibility? Look at the wholesale moral decay we are now in. Is morality not their major temporal responsibility? They have failed miserably, yet they want to take more responsibility. They will be more productive if they work hard at raising the moral standard of those who are coming after this morally bankrupt generation.

Unless they are planning to run for public office, grandstanding is not the way for them. They should lead in humility as exemplified by Jesus.

—ALFREDO QUEDI, aquedi@yahoo.com

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(PDI – Nov. 12, 2007)

World Pool: Nerves fail Filipino 'Superman'

From page A1

"I am so depressed," Gomez, a double degree holder from the University of the Philippines in Mindanao, told a packed conference before breaking down for the second time.

"I was almost there and I did not take the crown. I am sorry."

Gomez then went back to his native tongue, and admitted to cracking up.

"Magaling siya, pero talagang dala na rin ng first time na umabot ako dito (He's good but my being here for the first time was also a factor)," Gomez said.

"Nawala ang focus ko sa laro. Dumadating 'yan sa lahat ng player, nasa kanya na 'yan kung papano niya iko-control. Nung 15-all na, doon na bumigay. (I lost my focus. It happens to any player, it's up to him to control the situation. At 15-all, that's when I gave in)."

"I know the crowd was with me," Gomez, who settled for the $40,000 runner-up purse, added. "I really wanted to win for my country. But sometimes the crowd pressures me."

Awesome foe

"I have no one else to blame but myself," Gomez, who scored an 11-4 victory over England's Karl Boyes in the semifinals, added in Filipino. "I can't promise them anything, but I will try my best so that I could regain the trust of my countrymen."

But it wasn't as if the 35-year-old Peach, a native of Blackpool, did not play a great match to earn the top prize of $100,000. He looked awesome, especially on the defensive end.

But part of his brilliance was overshadowed by the fact that Gomez, who had lost just 12 racks in the entire knockout stage to get this far, folded up.

"This is just a dream come true," Peach told reporters. "But honestly speaking, this was the worst match that I played. The game plan just went out the window.

"You never think you can win the world championship, you only dream about it," said Peach, who also took out Filipinos Ronnie Alcano, the defending champion, in the Last 64, and sentimental favorite Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the quarterfinals.

Gomez, a former crime reporter for a local television network back in his native Zamboanga, trailed by as many as five racks, 8-3, after lapsing into a maze of silly errors which looked like a case of nerves more than anything else.

Soft breaks abandoned

He stayed rooted in his chair for quite a while as Peach put on a consistent display of efficient pool, until the Englishman suffered his first bad break of the match when he scratched after breaking the 12th rack.

Both players abandoned the soft break after the felt on the table was adjusted, and this provided for a more exciting match with the breaks providing a different look on the table each time.

A five-rack cluster of his own finally allowed Gomez to even at 8, but not after making the sell-out crowd sit on pins and needles because of delicate shots on the Nos. 2 and 3 balls that led to an easy run out of the 16th rack.

Changing fortunes

And after making it 9-8 by extending his run to six racks, Gomez scratched on the 18th break, giving Peach the chance to make it 9-all and engage the Filipino in a nip-and-tuck affair.

Gomez then turned a 10-12 deficit into that three-rack lead, playing loosely—for the first time—in the 27th frame, which was a routine run out for the Filipino.

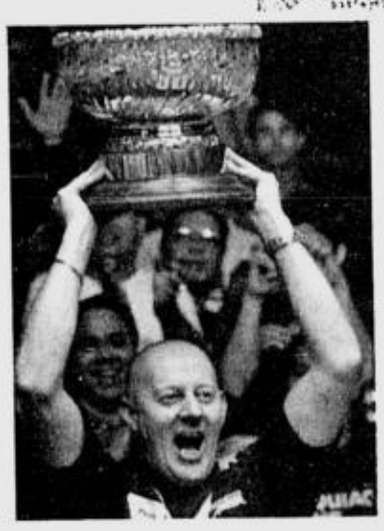
But everything caved in for the man nicknamed internationally after the popular comic book superhero, as he fouled on a jumpshot while playing out of another delicate Peach trap to hand a wide open table to the Englishman for 13-15.

Peach then ran out the next frame, and then the next before encountering trouble in the 31st after flubbing a kick shot on the 9.

"He (Gomez) could definitely win this tournament (in the future)," Peach said. "Up until the final (match) he was playing the best pool in the tournament. He just faulted a little bit in the end under pressure. You can't blame him for that."

The classic encounter gave the local crowd a better understanding of pool, as Peach engaged Gomez in a great defensive battle which almost always ended up in his favor.

In the end, the large crowd embraced Peach, applauding him wildly for his gutsy effort.



PEACH claims his World Pool cup. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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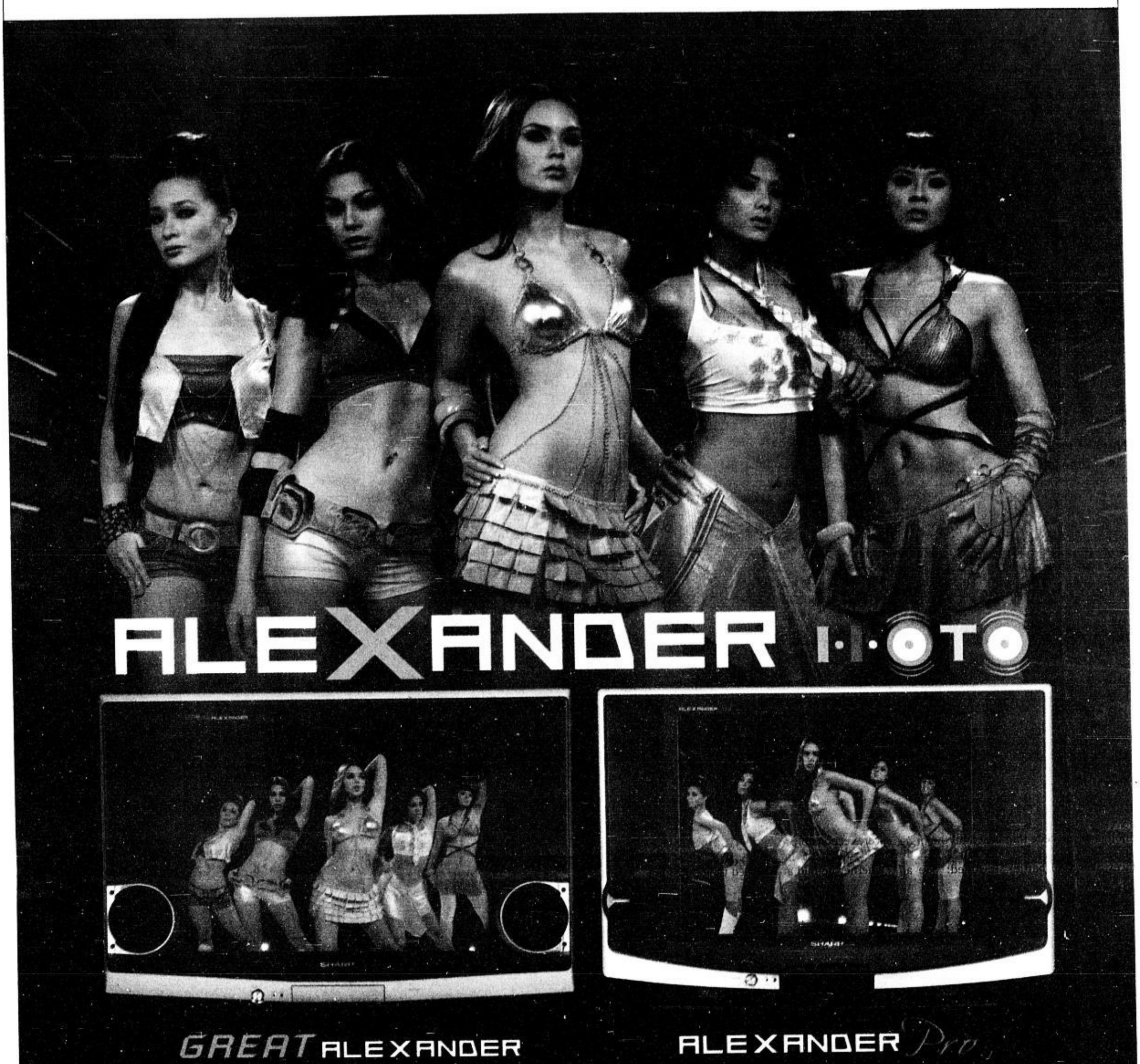

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Resign-snap poll bid has no critical mass

From page A1

an impatience to cut short a president's elected term. They represented cutting corners on electoral procedures and instant fixes to get rid of a widely reviled leader. The withdrawal of military support to the Estrada administration led to a nonviolent leadership change, but it was nonetheless a coup, albeit a soft putsch.

These approaches have exposed the fragility of election as a democratic mechanism for political change and the readiness of activist groups to discard the electoral mechanism and to accept shortcut solutions to topple regimes.

It is not my intention to discourage the new "resign-snap election" movement or to point out the futility of the campaign. I am up to the brink with outrage over the callousness of this administration, the wave of endless corruption scandals, the death squad killings of political activists, the diminution of political liberties, and the tendency for repression. I am as angry as some members of civil society over these issues.

Need to assess prospects

But outraged citizens cannot ignore the need to assess the prospects of success of their new project. There is nothing more fatal to the movement than to have unrealistic expectations of its success.

Organizers have launched a signature campaign hoping it might spark a groundswell of support that would put pressure on Ms Arroyo and De Castro to step down and call a snap election.

As the organizers said in their manifesto: "We are a diverse group of organizations and we all know prior to this there are several individual campaigns working for (Ms) Arroyo's ouster. This petition is not an appeal to (Ms) Arroyo's conscience but this is meant to awaken people."

This precisely is the problem. Is there a constituency for such a mass movement riding the wave of apparently widespread and deep-seated public unrest? Is there an issue that can serve as catalyst to awaken the people to unite in a mass action?

If there's none, no matter how much the rage, the movement becomes a romantic adventure. The manifesto is realistic enough to concede that based on the organizers' "frank assessment, impeachment faces an uphill battle." It added: "We all know impeachment is a numbers game."

But more so is the call to "awaken people" a numbers game. This manifesto is virtually a call for mobilization of another people power to put pressure on Ms Arroyo and De Castro to quit and clear the way for snap election.

According to the manifesto, a snap election is "the most viable option to reestablish democracy." The call for the President and Vice President to quit "is the most logical and historically possible option ... because) it passes the test of constitutionality."

Feasibility of solution

In other words, the organizers of the latest anti-Arroyo drive want to have it both ways—mass action or people power (extra-constitutional means) and resignation (constitutional means) through voluntary exit.

One wonders about the feasibility of this solution. No one gives up power voluntarily.

The manifesto rejected the approach of another group calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation to be followed by the formation of a junta euphemistically named as a "caretaker government" that would call an election to legitimize it.

Calling a junta a caretaker government is unfortunate. Now matter how you disguise it, a junta is a fascistic structure masking a military coup.

The manifesto branded the junta as a "patently erroneous" option, even if it would be headed by the Chief Justice as a front man. This option usually originates from groups associated with military groups engaged in coup plots.

Without going into a debate over the legal procedures to be followed to implement the constitutional mandate governing succession in case of the President's resignation or incapacity, the issue must first be settled—the circumstances under which the President steps down.

This remain highly hypothetical, and the manifesto is vague about this. It leaves things to chance.

Estrada's suggestion

The best answer to the dilemma over how to "awaken the people" was offered by former President Joseph Estrada after his pardon.

The first thing Estrada did after regaining his freedom was to distance himself from calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation. He said it was "the people—the poor sector, which is the largest sector of our society—who should choose and decide who they want to run or replace the government, not the few elitists and churchmen."

Estrada learned from experience who were responsible for his overthrow. He gave the statement in response to questions whether he had abandoned the opposition after his pardon.

His evasive answer flabbergasted opposition leaders. It left in doubt his bona fide status as an opposition symbol.

Estrada has passed on to the Arroyo-resign movement a challenge to find out whether the people are ready to respond to its call. As far as the manifesto of the movement is concerned, it is still a work in progress.

Saguisag finally told his wife died in accident

By DJ Yap

FORMER SEN. Rene Saguisag was finally told of his wife Dulce's demise yesterday morning but he kept a strong face upon hearing the bad news, his son Rebo said yesterday.

He did not shed tears, but his blood pressure "shot up," Rebo told reporters at the Makati Medical Center lobby.

"He's always been strong," he said of his father. "Our dilemma was whether to volunteer the information, or wait until he got better," he told the reporters.

The doctors at the Makati Med were split on the issue, he said.

One group wanted to inform him regardless of his condition while another group believed it was better to wait until Saguisag was better. "This morning, he asked," Rebo said. "We had to tell him the truth."

Asked if his father cried, Rebo said "no," adding that "he's always been strong."

Doctors were on hand the entire time to monitor his condition.

They noted a rise in his blood pressure after he was finally told about Dulce's death in the car accident they met early Thursday morning. Dulce was the only fatality. The doctors assured the family the increase in blood pressure was normal for anyone who had just received bad news.

Rebo said his father was "okay now" and had gone to sleep. But he requested that the detail of who broke the news to Saguisag be kept private. Rebo said Saguisag then asked how his wife's sisters were doing.

He described his father as "dramatically improving every day."

Saguisag, who had a tube inserted in his mouth from a respirator to help him breathe, could communicate with his family and doctors by writing notes and body signals, like nodding. His penmanship, "bad as it is," had also began looking normal, Rebo said.

Saguisag also kept asking when he could go home. "Can I go home now?" Rebo quoted his father as asking.

Gov to use cash gift ...

From page A1

on Oct. 11 in Malacañang before he decides what to do with his money.

Panlilio, a Catholic priest on leave, was the first governor to admit he had received P500,000 in a paper bag handed to his chief of staff by Mendoza, purportedly for barangay projects, on his way to his car after a luncheon meeting of around 200 local officials with Ms Arroyo.

Earlier that day, Ms Arroyo met over breakfast with around 90 congressmen, at least three of whom admitted they were given from P200,000 to P500,000 that opposition politicians denounced as a bribe.

The handouts were distributed amid an alleged attempt by the administration to ram through the House of Representatives a weak impeachment case filed by a private lawyer against Ms Arroyo that could be easily killed, thus preempting the opposition from lodging a stronger complaint under a one-year constitutional ban on bringing the same ouster move against the President.

The Senate has scheduled for Nov. 14 the opening of an investigation on the Oct. 11 gift-giving in Malacañang. The inquiry will touch among other things on whether the handouts constituted bribery and corruption and also determine the origin of the money.

Civil society groups have urged Ms Arroyo to step down and call a snap election.

Malacañang had disclaimed knowledge of the cash gifts, although the President's party, Kabalikat ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kampi), had belatedly acknowledged that it was the source of the P500,000 given to each of at least two congressmen—Bienvenido Abante Jr. of Manila and Thomas Dumpit of La Union.

Capability building

Officials of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) had admitted that it was the source of some of the money given to officials and members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. The LPP said it had P21 million from membership contributions and that the cash gifts were for "capability building."

Mendoza said that while he preferred to use part of the amount to buy flowering and ornamental plants, his plan would depend on the approval of the provincial board.

"We should wait for an SP (Sangguniang Panlalawigan) resolution to authorize the use of the money because it has been turned over to the provincial treasury. I sought the advice of many people and they all told me to use the money," he said.

Mendoza said he thought of the beautification program upon hearing Dean Virgilio Almario of the College of Arts and Letters of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, talk about the rich history of Bulacan.

Almario, a National Artist for literature and a native of Bulacan, was guest during the garden's opening.

Mendoza believed that there was nothing wrong in spending the P500,000 to improve the garden that would serve as a reminder and inspiration for Bulakenyos, especially the youth, to excel in their chosen fields.

The garden features a "Walk of Fame," where the names and handprints of artists and entertainment and media personalities who trace their roots to Bulacan will be preserved.

Senate investigation

Mendoza also said he would attend the Senate investigation of the cash gift "if called to appear."

He said he would "say what I had revealed on Oct. 22 and stand by Among (Father) Ed."

"*Yun na talaga yun* (That's final)," the governor said of what he disclosed in an Oct. 22 press conference.

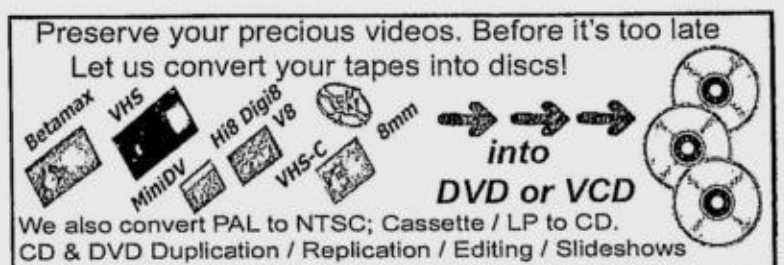
In his statement, Mendoza said the two paper bags containing P500,000 each were handed to him by a woman in white in a room beside the Heroes Hall to which he was directed to go by a female staff of the LPP.

In the room were Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. official Edward Plaza, and a man Mendoza did not know.

It was while walking toward the Palace's gate that Mendoza gave one of the bags to Archie Reyes, Panlilio's chief of staff.

Panlilio earlier said he would attend the Senate blue ribbon committee on Nov. 14.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market



Comelec security beefed up

From page A1

the hotel's closed circuit television could provide more clues to the murder.

Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr., head of the Manila Police District homicide division, said investigators had yet to be allowed by the Hyatt management to see the footage taken on M.H. del Pilar and Pedro Gil Streets.

Cavite poll exec also killed

Dalaig was one of two Comelec officials gunned down on Saturday.

The head of the Comelec office in Bacoor, Cavite, Joseph del Rosario, 46, was shot dead while having a drinking session inside a house in General Trias, Cavite.

Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, said there was "no indication" that the killing of Del Rosario was related to his work.

Posadas said Del Rosario was having drinks with friends at the Velmont Subdivision when the gunman suddenly entered the house, shot the victim at close range, and fled.

Vital footage

During the local elections in May, Bacoor was tagged as a hot spot after mayoral candidates accused each other of cheating and harassment.

"We were asked by the hotel management to write a formal letter before they decide if they will give us access to the footage," Yanquiling said.

He said a Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. employee had recognized Dalaig and "told us that Dalaig was a regular player at the casino."

This could explain the P300,000 in cash Dalaig was carrying at the time of his death, Yanquiling said.

Robbery was ruled out since the cash was untouched, but transactions that Dalaig supposedly had at the casino would be looked into, he said.

Yanquiling said the footage could show who Dalaig was often with or who were the people he had spoken to.

Witnesses afraid

The homicide chief said the police had also been barred by the management from going inside the hotel's parking area, where Dalaig was believed to have left his car.

Yanquiling said an informant had told the police that Dalaig might have left his Toyota Revo there. But Yanquiling said investigators could not confirm this as of yesterday, although they had the car key.

Not even one eyewitness has come forward, Yanquiling said. He added it was unlikely that none of the vendors or jeepney drivers in the area had seen the incident.

"I think they are just afraid, but we will convince them to tell their story. We do not even know yet how many assailants there were or how they escaped," he said.

Yanquiling said the hotel's security guard stationed near the entrance had claimed that after hearing a gunshot, he only saw Dalaig slumped on the street and did not see any gunman.

Other angles

Yanquiling said the police were also looking into other angles, such as the sensitive job Dalaig held at the Comelec.

"We will also check both his pending and decided cases at the Comelec, covering election-related cases and internal issues involving Comelec officers and employees," he said.

Dalaig was director of the Comelec's law department, which handles electoral cases.

Yanquiling said Dalaig's wife confirmed that her husband had received death threats, but that the source or sources of the threats had yet to be known because Dalaig's cell phone was still with his wife.

Jimenez said it was "too early to tell" if there was a need for additional security for the commissioners. "All of the commissioners have close-in security," he said.

Comelec meeting

Jimenez also said election officers who had received threats were given bodyguards only upon making a request. "We can't give all of the election officers bodyguards," he said.

"As far as threats to election officials are concerned, there are many," he added.

Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said the Comelec would meet en banc on Tuesday and might take up ways to improve security for poll officials.

Sarmiento himself said he was thinking of taking precautionary measures even though he had not received any death threats.

Past and present Comelec officials mourned Dalaig's death.

Sarmiento said Dalaig—previously mentioned as a possible candidate for the job of commissioner—had played a key role at the poll body because of his vast knowledge of election law that had earned him the label "Justice" or "Commissioner."

Dalaig started his Comelec career three decades ago.

A fatalist

Former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who resigned his post following accusations he helped broker the controversial $329-million broadband deal with China, also had high praise for Dalaig.

"He was a walking election book. He had memorized all the provisions of the election code, every period and comma," Abalos said.

He also described Dalaig as a "fatalist."

"He told me that he does not give a damn about those threats. He said, 'I just do my job as I see fit.' He was such a good man," Abalos said.

He said it could not be avoided that some losing candidates would make threats against election officials but that most of these were empty threats made out of desperation.

Dalaig in tears

Abalos said the last time he saw Dalaig was during the testimonial dinner for him after he announced his resignation. He said he saw Dalaig in tears when he bade Comelec personnel goodbye.

Sources in Lanao del Norte said the killing of Dalaig could be related to a local contest during the May 14 polls.

One source said the speed or delay in the resolution of poll protests largely depended on how Dalaig's law department disposed of them.

At the height of the "Hello Garci" tape controversy—involving alleged rigging the 2004 presidential election—Dalaig admitted having figured in the wiretapped conversations with then Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. The exact nature of the conversations was unclear.

In a transcript of the tape obtained by the INQUIRER, the name Dalaig or Dalahig cropped in one conversation that apparently dealt with a local election contest.

Senators urged the police to look deeper into killings of Dalaig and Del Rosario.

"Though these two incidents may be unrelated to each other and to the victims' line of work, it still calls for a thorough investigation and for the killers to be identified and locked up behind bars," Sen. Manuel Roxas II said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said: "He (Dalaig) was a Comelec official, it had to do something with the elections. I just hope that the violence in other parts of the Philippines, especially in ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), do not spread here in Metro Manila." *With reports from Gil Cabacungan in Manila; Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Richel Umel and Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

David's journey of triumph against autism

From page A1

"There is no cure, but through education and training, autism can be treated," he said at the close of the two-day national conference at the Philippine Columbian Association in Paco, Manila, on "A Life Journey with Autism: Hope After Diagnosis."

For the ASP, which organized the conference, autism is not a tragedy. Ignorance is the tragedy. The organization maintains that parents of children with autism should not despair, claiming that 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with ASD.

"There is no one specific cause of autism known yet. But while there is still no cure for autism, it is treatable. Many children with autism, especially with early intervention, make considerable improvements. Parents have to empower themselves to give these children a better life," the group stresses.

Their vision: "ASP sees an environment that helps persons with ASD to become, to the best of their potentials, self-reliant, independent, productive and socially accepted members of society."

Based on information from the ASP, autism "typically appears during the child's first three years, is four times more common in males than in females, and has been found throughout the world in families of all ethnic and social backgrounds."

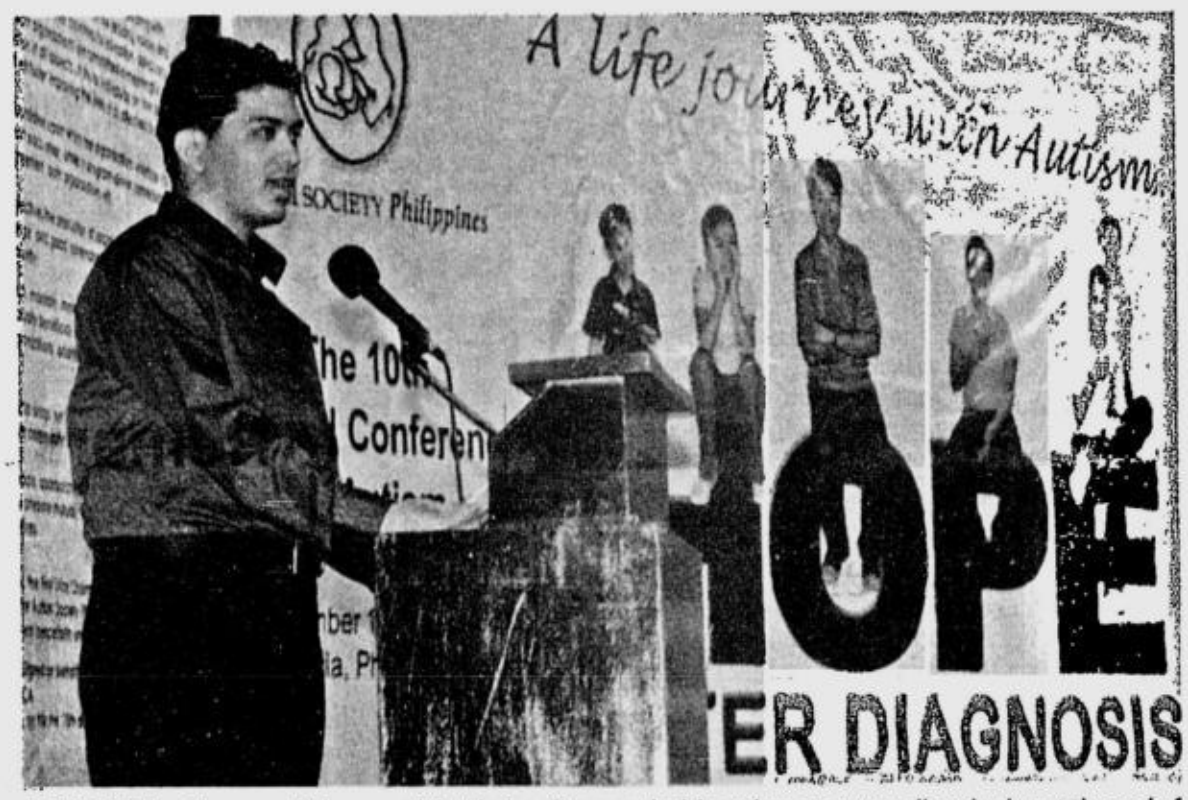
"People with ASD live normal life spans and some of the behaviors associated with it may change and disappear over time," said the ASP.

Symptoms

The symptoms of ASD, usually apparent in toddlers, include:

- No pointing by one-year.
- No babbling by one year or no single words by 16 months or no two-word phrases by 24 months.
- Any loss of language skills at anytime.
- No pretend playing.
- Little interest in making friends.
- Extremely short attention span.
- No response when called by name or indifference to others.
- Little or no eye contact.
- Repetitive body movements such as hand clapping or rocking; intense tantrums.
- Fixation on a single object.
- Unusually strong resistance to changes in routines.

Dr. Alexis Reyes of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, stressed in her discussion: "Early intervention works. We cannot wait until the symptoms are very obvious."



DAVID Michael Lopez, a living proof that being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder is not the end of the world, addresses the national conference of the Autism Society of the Philippines at the Philippine Columbian Association in Paco, Manila. RYAN LIM

According to Reyes, treatment within the developmental framework is most effective to arrest the incidence of ASD, which is reported to be steadily increasing here and abroad.

Talking like a parrot

In his speech with matching PowerPoint presentation, Lopez recounted his struggles as a child that began when his parents did "lots of massage" on his neck thinking it would help him speak.

"They also put a spoon in my mouth, and had a faith healer work on me. After a week or two I was talking like a parrot," he said as the crowd laughed.

A special education program at Cahbriba, an alternative school foundation in Los Baños, Laguna, transformed Lopez.

"I learned new skills that changed my attitude," said Lopez. It was there that he learned to eat properly, to wait for his turn, and to develop teamwork by joining sports activities.

He described high school in Cahbriba as "challenging, full of hard work and fun." He recalled acquaintance parties with girls and "romantic evenings" at junior-senior proms.

A trip to Thailand, his first foreign visit courtesy of Unesco, was a dream come true.

"I think I gained more self-confidence after this trip," he said, as he related eating grasshoppers and haggling to buy a black Buddha image down from 600 baht to 300 baht.

'I did not lose hope'

Lopez said he was disappointed he failed the entrance exams of University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas. "But I did not lose hope in life," he said.

He was accepted at Lyceum where he chose to take up AB Communication because he "wanted to communicate with other people."

A vigorous writer, Lopez also started blogging through accounts at Multiply and Blogger.

"Hopefully, I will land a job soon to help my parents, search for the right girl, get married and raise my family," he said as the audience clapped loudly.

"The future is there waiting for me. I know it will be hard but I have walked those steps. The next step is really not that hard anymore ... I will be an eye-opener to everyone to persevere, not to lose hope in case their child is afflicted with autism. I know that not everybody can be like me, but I know in their own time they can duplicate what I have achieved."

Norman Mailer, towering literary figure, dies at 84

From page A1

failure at Mount Sinai Hospital, J. Michael Lennon, the author's literary executor and biographer, said.

"He was a great American voice," said a tearful Joan Didion, author of "The Year of Magical Thinking" and other works, struggling for words upon learning of Mailer's death.

From "The Naked and the Dead," Mailer's classic debut novel about a combat platoon in the South Pacific during World War II, to such masterworks of literary journalism as "The Armies of the Night," the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner always got credit for insight, passion and originality.

Some of his works were highly praised, some panned, but none was pronounced the Great American Novel that seemed to be his life quest from the time he soared to the top as a brash 25-year-old "enfant terrible."

Mailer built and nurtured an image over the years as bellicose, street-wise and high-living. He drank, fought, smoked marijuana, married six times and stabbed his second wife, almost fatally, during a drunken party.

He had nine children, made a quixotic bid to become mayor of New York City on a "left conservative" platform, produced five forgettable films, dabbled in journalism, flew gliders, challenged professional boxers, was banned from a Manhattan YWHA (Young Women's Hebrew Association, a Jewish community center) for reciting obscene poetry, feuded publicly with writer Gore Vidal and crusaded against women's liberation.

Run-ins with law

Mailer had numerous minor run-ins with the law, usually for being drunk or disorderly, but was also jailed briefly during the Pentagon protests in the late 1960s. While directing the film "Maidstone" in 1968, the self-described "old club fighter" punched actor Lane Smith, breaking his jaw, and bit actor Rip Torn's ear in another scuffle.

But as Newsweek reviewer Raymond Sokolov said in 1968, "In the end, it is the writing that will count."

Mailer possessed "a superb natural style that does not crack under the pressures he puts up-

MAILER AFP

on it, a talent for narrative and characters with real blood streams and nervous systems, a great openness and eagerness for experience, a sense of urgency about the need to test thought and character in the crucible of a difficult era," Sokolov wrote.

First book

Mailer earned an engineering science degree in 1943 from Harvard University where he decided to become a writer. He was soon drafted into the Army.

Sent to the Philippines as an infantryman, Mailer saw enough of soldiering to provide a basis for his first book, "The Naked and the Dead," published in 1948 while he was a postgraduate student in Paris.

The book became a best seller, and Mailer returned home to find himself anointed the new Hemingway, Dos Passos and Melville.

Buoyed by instant literary celebrity, Mailer embraced the early 1950s counterculture, defining "hip" in his essay "The White Negro," allying himself with Beat Generation gurus Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, and writing social and political commentary for the Village Voice, which he helped found.

The big comeback

He also churned out two more novels, "Barbary Shore" (1951) and "Deer Park" (1955), which were neither embraced kindly by readers or critics.

While Life magazine called his next book, "An American Dream" (1965), "the big comeback of Norman Mailer," the author-journalist was chronicling major events of the day—an antiwar march on Washington, the 1968 political conventions, the Muhammad Ali-Floyd Patterson fight, an Apollo moon shot.

His 1968 account of the peace march on the Pentagon, "The Armies of the Night," won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

Jorge Herralde, editor of Mailer's Spanish publishers, Anagrama, said that Mailer was a titan of literature who, like Kafka, was never awarded a Nobel Prize. "He surely had too excessive a profile for that award," Herralde said.

A courageous person

Mailer's personal life was as turbulent as the times in which he lived. In 1960, at a party at his Brooklyn Heights home, he stabbed his second wife, Adele Morales, with a knife. She declined to press charges, and it was not until 1997 that she revealed in her memoir how close she had come to dying.

"He could do anything he wanted to do—the movie business, writing, theater, politics," author Gay Talese said. "He never thought the boundaries were restricted. He'd go anywhere and try anything. He was a courageous person, a great person, fully confident, with a great sense of optimism."

In "Advertisements for Myself" (1959), Mailer promised to write the greatest novel yet, but later conceded he had not. Among his other notable works were "Cannibals and Christians" (1966), "Why Are We in Vietnam?" (1967), and "Miami and the Siege of Chicago" (1968).

In 2005, Mailer received a gold medal for lifetime achievement at the National Book Awards, where he deplored what he called the "withering" of general interest in the "serious novel." Authors like himself, he said often, had become anachronisms as people focused on television and young writers aspired to screen writing or journalism.

Lennon said arrangements for a private service and burial for family members and close friends would be announced next week, and a memorial service would be held in New York in the coming months. *AP*

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CBCP head pushes rejection of coal plant

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—JARO ARCHBISHOP ANGEL LAGdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said Ilonggos should reject the proposed coal-fired power plant here warning of health and environmental risks.

He said the clergy in the city would meet and help explain to their flock the dangers posed by a coal fired plant.

"It is better to act on the prevention (of sickness and environmental problems resulting from coal plants) rather than on the cure," Lagdameo told the INQUIRER Wednesday at the sidelines of a forum on coal plants sponsored by the Archdiocese of Jaro.

Environmental groups and the Catholic Church are opposing a plan to put up a 100-megawatt coal plant in Barangay Ingore in La Paz District here by the Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC) and Panay Power Corp. (PPC).

The project is among those considered to boost the energy capacity of Iloilo City and Panay Island.

City officials were supporting the project citing the need for a stable supply of energy especially with the increasing power demand resulting from infrastructure and development projects.

But the head of the University of the Philippines-based National Poison Management and Control Center, said the project should be opposed, warning of adverse health hazards on residents especially children.

Dr. Lynn Panganiban, a professor at the UP College of Medicine Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, said local government officials should be challenged to look for safe alternatives to power generation other than coal-fired plants.

"It is general knowledge that coal-fired power plants have been the major source of air pollution all over the world. In fact, their emissions have been major contributors to the global warming phenomenon we are currently experiencing," said Panganiban, an Ilonggo, in a letter read during the forum.

Panganiban pointed out that emissions from coal-fired power plants are composed of pollutants such as sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, polynuclear hydrocarbon, total gaseous hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, and metals such as mercury and arsenic.

The toxicologist cited a study published in the journal Environmental Research in January 2007, which stated that "air pollution from coal-fired power station, although not exceeding local pollution standards, had a negative effect in children's lung function development."

Coal plant proponents said the plants utilize the circulating fluidized bed combustion (CFBC) which they say limits emissions within internationally accepted levels and the Clean Air Act.

The plant's operation will also be strictly monitored to ensure that it meets safety and health standards, they said.

But Panganiban said that "although there have been attempts to address the toxic discharges with new technologies, we are still in the stage of merely reducing these emissions and have no methods of totally eliminating them."

She said the establishment of a coal-fired power plant would require stringent and efficient monitoring of its impact on health and environment.

But she said in her 17 years as a toxicologist, "I still have to see an efficiently operating monitoring system that seriously looks into health and environmental impacts of pollutants in the country."

THE "END MARKER" in Barangay Rizal in Tagkawayan town. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Markers to enlighten Andaya Highway critics

TAGKAWAYAN, QUEZON—TO EVADE the stigma attached to Andaya Highway here known for its potholes and cracks, the Department of Public Works and Highways in Quezon province has put up markers on both ends of their territorial jurisdiction.

Ronel Tan, head of DPWH-Quezon 4th Engineering District, said they put up the markers to help clarify to motorists that the cracks, ruts and "craters" in many portions of the highway are outside their territory.

"Every time the bad condition of the Andaya Highway was being hit in the media, our office was most often the recipient of all the brickbats due to misunderstanding. That's unfair because the Quezon side is well maintained," Tan argued.

He noted that the misconception started when nine barangays of Calauag, Quezon were officially transferred to the jurisdiction of Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte five years ago.

With the changes in boundaries, Tan said the first 1.7-kilometer stretch of the Andaya Highway that was then under the jurisdiction of Quezon had since been placed under Camarines Norte.

"What was left to Quezon province was 29 km which we have been regularly maintaining," Tan said.

Motorists going to and from Bicol and other parts of southern Philippines have complained of the bad condition of the highway.

While it is being concreted, many sections of the 93-km stretch are still rough, resulting in one-lane passages.

The INQUIRER visited the highway and found the 1.7-km portion of the highway under the supervision of Bicol full of potholes and cracks with vehicles finding it hard to shift to second gear.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Community is torn between 2 villages

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

OZAMIZ CITY—GATHERED IN A SMALL clearing beside the road, several residents of Manabay, a suburban community here, discussed prospects for them after the just concluded village polls. From where they stood is a half-paved hundred-meter road that leads into the coastal area.

The road-paving project has been unfinished for over five years now due to lack of funds. Barangay Catadman, to which the community belonged, has not been receiving its share of revenues derived from Manabay taxpayers, hence the project has to wait for "spare funds" to complete.

This situation becomes worrisome amid expanding infrastructure needs of the community, especially potable water supply and a drainage system, due to expanding population.

The problem facing Manabay results from a disharmony of the community's governance pillars, making the management of its affairs complicated. Although a mere local-level micro-conflict, the case opens new discussions on the policy environment for local governance, the village being the smallest political unit of the country.

Territory

As a politico-administrative territory, Manabay belongs to Catadman. Its residents are counted among Barangay Catadman's constituency.

But as a fiscal territory, Manabay belongs to its northern neighbor, Barangay Maningcol. Hence, the share of revenues derived from its barely 30-hectare territorial expanse now is being used for Maningcol residents.

As a revenue source, Manabay has a rich potential. The once barren coastal strip and lush ricefields now hosts container yards, warehouses, and two prawn processing plants.

This fact accentuates the clamor of Manabay residents for a rightful share of development funds.

Several years back, residents of Manabay have urged Catadman leaders to exert effort to take hold of the revenue share unduly going into Maningcol's coffers.

This was met with moves by Maningcol leaders to entice Manabay residents to integrate with them politically. The Maningcol leaders' campaign was accompanied by distribution of petty projects.

As the competing moves led to a standoff on the question of owning the fiscal resources, Manabay residents launched the Restore Barangay Manabay Movement, confident that history is on their side.

Alfredo Gonzaga, a retired local government technocrat who formed and led the movement, argued that based on official documents, Manabay is the "mother barangay" of Catadman.

Cadastral maps and references as early as the 1950s indicate "Barrio Manabay" as a location. No subsequent legislation has led to the dissolution of Manabay as a politico-administrative unit, Gonzaga noted.

These old locational references even defines Manabay's territory as comprising once lush mangrove fields which are now settlements whose residents belong, politically, to Maningcol.

But when older Manabay residents were asked, the last *kapitan del barrio* they can remember, a certain Hibaya, held office until the late 1970s.

Gonzaga also said that as a settlement, Manabay predates Catadman which was then "just a long coastal strip of mangroves and bogs."

"How come the mother barangay now becomes a mere sitio?" asked Gonzaga, explaining that the issue should not just be simplistically seen as a dispute over territorial boundary but rather a rightful recognition of a political entity.

Manabay is separated from Catadman by a river; another river over a kilometer away also separates it from Maningcol.

But the city government's "fiscal map" recognizes the territory immediately following the Catadman-Manabay river border as belonging to Maningcol. This means that Manabay no longer exists as a distinct fiscal territory, but as a component of Maningcol.

Today, Manabay residents are grouped into two puroks whose respective leaders represent them before the barangay government. Even as the polls are over, there is still the brewing longing for them having greater policy-making voice.

Secessionist tendency

During the recent barangay elections, no Manabay resident was elected as member of the barangay council. Traditionally, Catadman voters resent Manabay's perceived "secessionist" tendencies hence junking the political bids of its residents during the polls. As an electoral base, Manabay is no match to the Catadman bailiwick.

Arnold Salvia, a former Manabay purok leader, aptly paints the quandary: "There is obviously the challenge of enhancing our political voice (within Catadman). But granting we have it now, Catadman leaders are still not fiscally empowered to respond to our needs. We can neither demand projects from Maningcol because we have no voice in their government."

Technically, it's less of a hassle to be part of Maningcol because it only takes political integration; but socially, Manabay residents are much more akin with Catadman, Salvia explained, shaking his head.

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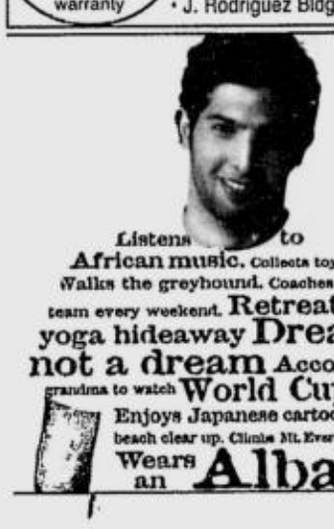

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Foreign youths arrive in Baguio for Delphic Games

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—REPORTS OF the Oct. 19 explosion at Glorietta 2 shopping mall have scared many foreign participants in the 3rd Junior Delphic Games, the world artists' equivalent of the Olympic Games, which is being hosted this week by Baguio.

But the 120 youths who arrived here on Saturday from Russia, Germany and South Korea proved that nothing really frightened them, said Divina Bautista, president of the International Delphic Council (IDC).

German ballerinas began practicing their leaps at the Baguio Convention Center stage, while German and Korean youths showed off their dance steps.

The games will formally open on Monday. For the first time, these will recognize hip-hop music as a form of world art.

The first major Delphic Games was launched in 2000, three years after the Junior Games was held in Africa.

More than 100 Korean delegates, garbed in colorful Korean traditional costumes, arrived on Saturday.

J. Christian Kirsch, who organized the Delphic Movement in Germany, arrived on Friday, accompanied by 17 German artists.

Bautista said the presence of the delegates and officials made up for the fear generated abroad by the Glorietta explosion in Makati City, which almost cost the IDC this year's junior games.

She said many foreign participants cancelled hotel and plane bookings, "and we could no longer change their plans when [the police retracted the bomb theory]."

The country had fought hard to host the games, which Bautista co-founded in 1994 when she and other world artists heeded Kirsch's call to form the IDC.

Kirsch, IDC secretary general, said the World Delphic Games was meant to be the modern world's homage to the original Delphic Games or Pythian Games held in 6 B.C. and from which the Olympic Games was patterned.

But unlike the Olympic sports events, the Delphic Games focuses on "the creative spirit of peoples," Bautista said.

The IDC website says this "spiritual competition of peoples and races will revive and enrich world cultures, strengthen their identities and lead to reconciliation."

The Delphic Games also allows host countries to design their own competitions.

The competitions offered by the two previous junior games involved the classical arts, such as traditional singing and improvisational theater and dance, as well as a match between youths performing their country's indigenous rituals.

The Philippines introduced a hip-hop (rap, dance and music) tournament this year, Bautista said. This has been received highly by participants from the United States, Japan, China, South Africa and Germany, she said.

"I really don't know anything about hip-hop but it has its own language and rules ... There are hip-hop competitions all over the world, but the Delphic Games is the first universal competition that will acknowledge it as an art form," she said.

It is a popular form of culture that has offended segments of world society, she said, but the IDC welcomed hip-hop rapping and dancing to indicate that "the world is changing, and we have to change with it."

Kirsch said the IDC "honors new forms of communication, poetry and literature, as long as I feel it is not misused [or encourage responses that are] destructive."

It equates hip-hop to computer language and short messaging system (SMS) or texting, which the public first addressed with suspicion before it embraced these forms of cultural technology, he said.

Kirsch said the IDC hoped that including hip-hop in the games would draw attention to the strength of the world's youths.

BURNHAM PARK has become the lair of jugglers. Hotel and Restaurant Management students from different universities began training themselves in gimmick-bartending for a competition scheduled this month. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

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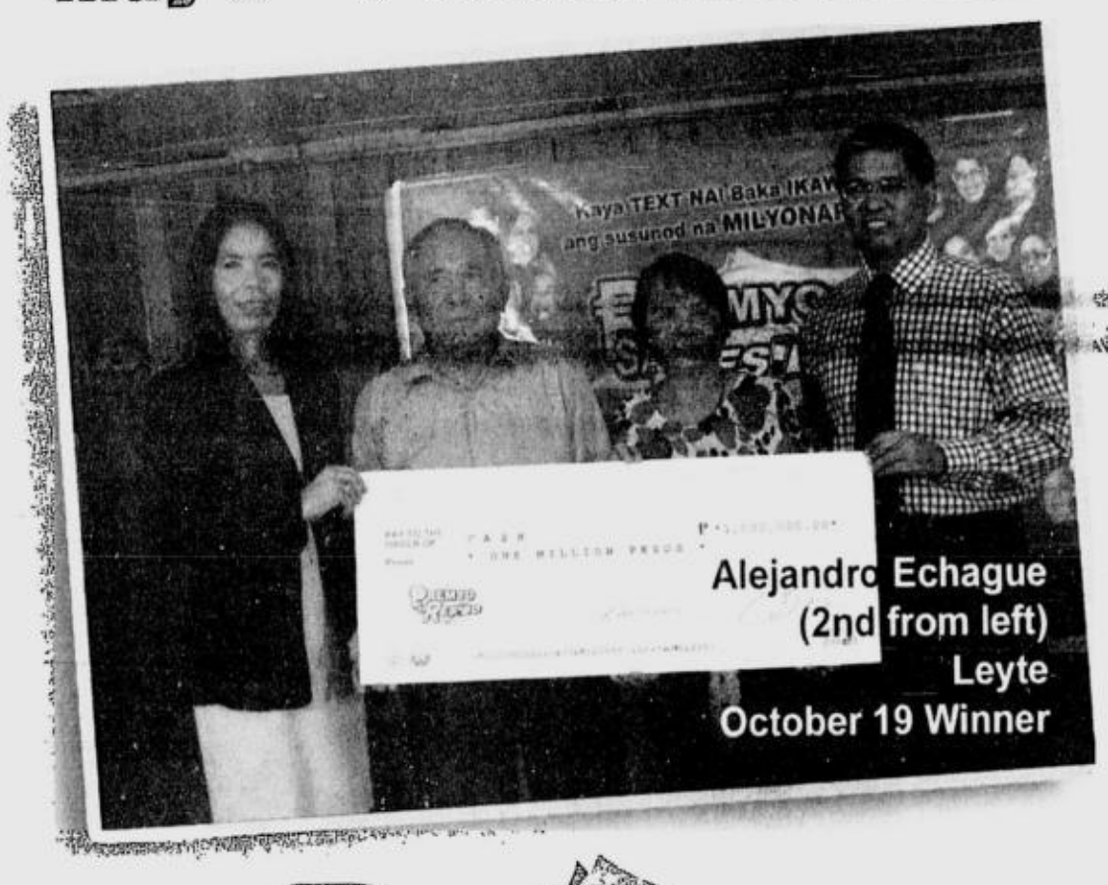

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US govt gives P31M for Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—As government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) negotiators recently broke the impasse in their negotiation and scheduled a meeting this week in Kuala Lumpur, the United States provided about $750,000 (P31.5 million) for the Mindanao Trust Fund.

Undersecretary Virgilio Leyretana of the Mindanao Economic Development Council on Saturday said the funding forms part of Washington's continued support to the government's peace and development efforts in Mindanao.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney and World Bank country director Bert Hoffman signed the grant agreement at the International Finance Corp. offices in Makati City on Friday.

The money will be used for capacity-building of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), the development arm of the MILF tasked to design and implement development programs in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

The World Bank administers the two-phase Mindanao Trust Fund. The first phase focuses on capacity building and implementation of reconstruction and development projects in conflict-affected areas while the peace process is in progress. The second phase is intended to support full-scale reconstruction programs once a peace agreement has been signed.

Eid Kabalu, civil-military affairs chief of the MILF, welcomed the US assistance for the BDA.

"We are not against any assistance as long as it would help uplift the lives of Muslims in Mindanao," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

At the same time, Kabalu said the forthcoming exploratory talks between them and government slated on Nov. 14-17 in Malaysia will push through as scheduled.

"So far, there were no changes in the schedule. Both panels are expected to conclude the issue on territory during the meeting," he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

NEWSBRIEFS

Flies worry Davao villagers

STA. CRUZ, Davao del Sur—Residents of Barangay Coronon here have called the attention of health authorities after swarms of flies invaded their village.

Resident Terry Jane Lamucna said she was afraid the flies would affect the health of the community. The villagers blamed a poultry farm for the menace. The farm management refused to comment on the allegations.

Dr. Raygene Manuel Madronero, municipal health officer, said his office would investigate the farm this week. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Army officer, 2 soldiers hurt in clash

LUCENA CITY—An Army officer and two soldiers were wounded in an encounter with New People's Army rebels in Libmanan, Camarines Sur, on Nov. 5.

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command, said 2nd Lt. Nonie Alcala, Pfc. Melchor Perite and Pfc. Alberto Las III, members of the 42nd Infantry Battalion, were on combat patrol when they encountered an undetermined number of rebels in Sitio Kamaslagan in Sigamot. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

3 soldiers wounded in clashes

KORONADAL CITY—Three soldiers were wounded in a series of clashes with communist rebels in a remote village of Columbio town in Sultan Kudarat on Nov. 9.

Maj. Rodrigo Sosmeña, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City, said the clashes occurred in Sitio Lasak, Barangay Bantangan.

During the first gun battle, Sosmeña said Pfc. Saidamen Abbas was wounded. During the follow up operations, Sgt. Leonardo Catiwala-an and Pfc. Ismael Paradji were hurt, he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

NPA claims role in 2 ambuscades

LEGAZPI CITY—The New People's Army on Nov. 5 claimed responsibility for the two ambuscades that resulted in the deaths of two policemen and wounding of five others in Cataingan and San Pascual towns in Masbate last week.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, National Democratic Front-Bicol spokesperson Greg Bañares said the NPA-Jose Rapsing Command in Masbate was behind the attacks. The claims could not be independently confirmed.

Earlier, the NPA owned up for the Friday night torching of a Globe cellsite in Barangay Bayanihan, San Fernando, Masbate. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Soldier, son killed in road accident

ROXAS CITY—An Army soldier and his young son were killed when the motorcycle they were riding on was hit by a cargo truck on Nov. 8 along the national highway in Barangay Viscaya, President Roxas, Capiz. Sgt. Simon Tumols Jr. and his son Roberto, 8, both of Poblacion, President Roxas, were declared dead on arrival at the Bailan District Hospital in Pontevedra, Capiz, said Insp. Reynaldo Siwala, police chief of President Roxas.

Tumols was a member of the 12th Infantry Battalion based in San Antonio, Cuartero, Capiz.

The truck driver, Elmer Millares, 39, of Barangay San Esteban, Pilar, Capiz, surrendered to police. *Felipe V. Celino, Inquirer Visayas*

PMA cadet dies

BAGUIO CITY—A graduating cadet of the Philippine Military Academy died on Tuesday from what military doctors described as an upper respiratory infection, reports said.

Cadet First Class Reenan Ferrer, 22, went to a hospital in Las Piñas City on Nov. 1 because of fever, according to the PMA public information office.

Doctors of the Perpetual Help Hospital in Las Piñas referred Ferrer to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center where he suffered seizures that "became frequent despite continued medications and monitoring," the PMA said.

Ferrer was the second cadet to have died this year. Cadet Fourth Class John Limuel Burcer, 17, died at the AFP Medical Center on May 8, after being confined for coughing and fever. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Cops hunt 3 men who robbed STL employees

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police are hunting three unidentified men who held up employees of a company operating the small town lottery (STL) in Laguna on Nov. 6 and took away bet money amounting to P100,000.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. said his men were now gathering information about the three armed men who were believed to have knowledge of the operations of Ramloid Gaming Corp., owner of the STL franchise.

He said the employees, who had just collected bets from their betting stations, were on a service vehicle when they were flagged down by the gunmen in Sitio Maabo, Barangay Maria Magdalena, at around 9 a.m. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Mass grave yields 13 skeletons

STA. CRUZ, Davao del Sur—The mass grave found in Sitio Landing in Barangay Sinuron here has yielded 13 remains, including that of a pregnant woman and her unborn baby.

The diggings started late last week after a former communist rebel led authorities to the site.

Maj. Gen. Cadozo Luna, commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City, said the pregnant woman was believed to be Myrna Mendoza, former finance officer of the NPA's Southern Mindanao command.

Mendoza, alias Peryang, was 8 months pregnant when she was allegedly executed by her comrades at the height of a communist purge in the 1980s.

Alberto Cepaco, director of the Commission on Human Rights in Southern Mindanao, said the agency was willing to help the families of those killed during the purge, known in Mindanao as "Operation Kahos." *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Journalists file raps vs Compostela Valley dad

DAVAO CITY—DAVAO JOURNALISTS trooped to the Office of the Mindanao Ombudsman on Nov. 8 to support the filing of criminal and administrative case against a Compostela Valley provincial board member, who mauled a broadcaster inside the announcer's booth of Radyo Natin in Compostela Valley last month.

Victim Roel Sembrano filed criminal charges of grave coercion, grave threats, physical injury; and administrative case of grave abuse of authority against his alleged attacker, Board Member Neri Barte.

Lawyer Marco Buena, spokesperson for the Deputy Ombudsman for Mindanao, said the complaint would be evaluated for form and substance.

Once probable cause is established, the Office of the Ombudsman may decide on the administrative case, while a criminal case will be filed in court, Buena said.

Carlos Zarate, secretary general of the Union of Peoples' Lawyers in Mindanao (UPLM) which is assisting Sembrano, said the case not only involved the trampling of rights of one person but also touched on the issue of press freedom and the culture of impunity reigning in the country.

It involves a government official using power to suppress the press, he said.

50 killed

"This is dangerous because there have already been more than 50 journalists killed in our country since the restoration of democracy in 1986," he said.

"We don't only demand for a stop of the killing of journalists but also to stop all attacks against press freedom."

Both the Davao chapters of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) urged colleagues not to treat the attack lightly because this might encourage more politicians to maul unprotected journalists while discussing legitimate issues on air.

"What happened to Roel Sembrano manifests the ongoing attempts to curtail the freedom of expression in the country," said the joint statement, signed by Carmelito Francisco, chair of NUJP Davao, and Roy Geonzon, chair of KBP Davao.

"It shows how members of the local media have become easy targets of such attacks by abusive public officials," the statement added.

Sembrano said that at around 6:15 a.m. on Oct. 23, Barte barged into the radio station with his wife and daughter, and attacked and threatened him while he was hosting his program, "Haring Lungsod, Ikaw ang Nasayod."

He said he was criticizing Barte for promising to give 50 sacks of cement from the provincial government if Jaime Blanco, a candidate for barangay captain, won, when the attack occurred.

In an interview with a Davao City radio station after the attack, Barte said he only did it to protect the reputation of his family, which Sembrano allegedly wanted to tarnish.

Proper forum

"As practicing journalists, we believe that our profession does not lack proper forum, where Barte can ventilate whatever complaints he might have on Sembrano. But instead, he showed brazen disrespect on the rights of Sembrano as a person, and abused and threatened him right in a place, where as a broadcaster, Sembrano is supposed to carry out his role as "watchdog" of democracy," the journalists said in response to Barte's interview.

They said Sembrano's experience "is a matter of concern to all journalists because the one who did it is a public official whose actions must be open to public scrutiny; and that it is part of the job of every journalist to examine."

In Iligan City, police on Saturday arrested one of the three suspects in the shooting and wounding of radio broadcaster Jose Pantoja in front of the Mindanao State University on Oct. 8.

Pantoja was the spokesperson of Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats under the leadership of Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo and former Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo.

City police chief Senior Supt. Virgilio Ranes said the suspect, Romeo Vequizo, was arrested in his alleged hideout in the village of Sta. Filomena.

Ranes said Vequizo was being interrogated by the City Intelligence and Investigation Division and would be turned over to the Regional Trial Court today.

Vequizo was a civil security guard but was relieved for alleged involvement in illegal activities three years ago.

The two other suspects were identified as Anecito "Ding" Galvez and Rome Ragasajo. *Germelina A. Lacorte, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Richel V. Umel, Inquirer Mindanao*

Most Western Visayas water stations have no permits

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—IF YOU'RE BUYING WATER from refilling stations anywhere in Western Visayas, think again.

Only 154 of the 504 water stations in the region are accredited by the Department of Health and have secured sanitary permits from the local governments, said Joemarie Fayo, hospital environment and occupational health inspector of the DOH.

Fayo is tasked with checking the water treatment process used by the refilling stations.

Some stations use improvised filtering machines, while others "have damaged, broken or rusty devices," he said.

Fayo said local governments were responsible for issuing sanitary permits in accordance with the Sanitation Code of the Philippines.

But the water stations must secure initial and operational permits from the DOH before they could get a sanitary permit.

The DOH issues an initial permit (or notice to proceed) to an applicant for the construction, installation and operation of a water source that meets the plans and specifications set by the health department.

After the construction of the water supply system, the owner must apply for an operational permit and secure a certificate of potability from the local health office.

"Local government units must also ensure that water refilling stations submit a monthly water analysis to ensure the safety of their product," Fayo said.

Under the Sanitary Code, the city or municipal health officer should recommend the immediate suspension of the sanitary permit if the company is found to have unsanitary conditions.

Fayo noted, however, that the local governments had been issuing business permits to the water refilling stations although they had not complied with all the requirements.

Place	No. of Registered Refilling Stations	With DOH accreditation or Sanitary Permits
Iloilo City	113	23
Bacolod City	104	34
Aklan	28	4
Antique	9	4
Capiz	54	36
Guimaras	5	2
Iloilo	103	34
Negros Occidental	88	17

SOURCE: DOH

Fire wipes out Sulu commercial center, says disaster official

ZAMBOANGA CITY—TWO MORE BODIES were recovered from the ashes and other debris from a fire that swept a commercial district in Siasi town in Sulu on Nov. 3, raising the death toll to five people.

"The whole commercial center was wiped down. It's very depressing, but I kept on telling the people to be strong, to gather our strength together," Hadja Jainab Abdulmajid, head of the Sulu Provincial Area Coordinating Center for Disaster, said.

Close to 6,000 people were displaced as the fire—described as one of the worst disasters to hit Sulu in recent years—gutted hundreds of houses and business establishments in Barangays North Laud and South Laud, and the town proper.

Abdulmajid corrected her earlier statement that the fire displaced 7,000 families, saying this was based on a report sent by the municipal information center. "The actual count is 646 families or close to 6,000 individuals," she said.

Two of those who died were children. At least 15 people, including two soldiers helping in the evacuation, were injured.

"People have started to panic because the whole town was razed. They do not know where to get food, clothing or things to help them survive," Abdulmajid said.

She said her office had brought food and medicine to them, but their situation was aggravated by the lack of shelter.

Maj. Gen. Reuben Rafael, chief of the military's Task Force Comet, said the fire could have been caused by a dynamite explosion near a house selling gasoline.

In Malita, Davao del Sur, at least 17 families lost their homes when a liquefied petroleum gas tank exploded and triggered a fire in Barangay Poblacion on Saturday.

No casualties were reported but damage could reach P5 million, Orlando Augusto, municipal fire marshal, said.

In Cotabato City, officials and civic leaders were working together to find temporary shelter for victims of the Nov. 1 fire that struck a slum area built on an old cemetery.

The victims have sought refuge in schools and a church-run facility.

Fr. David Procalla, Rosary Heights parish priest, said at least 50 families were staying at the parish social action hall.

Mayor Muslimin Sema instructed the city social welfare office to relocate the victims from public schools because classes had already resumed. *Julie Alipala with reports from Orlando Dinoy and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

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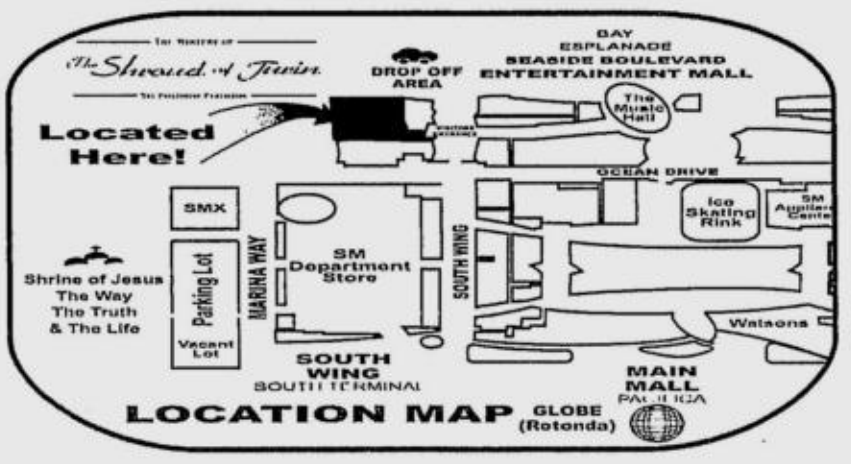

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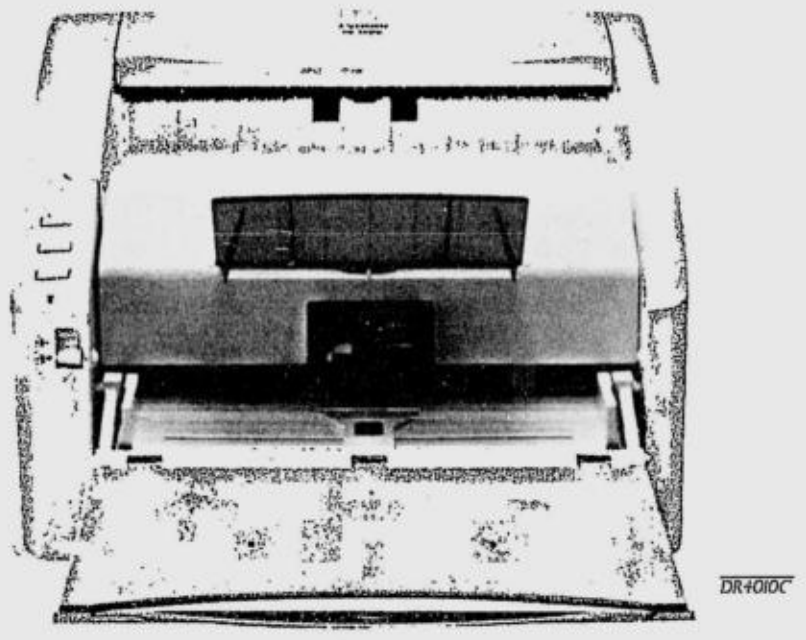

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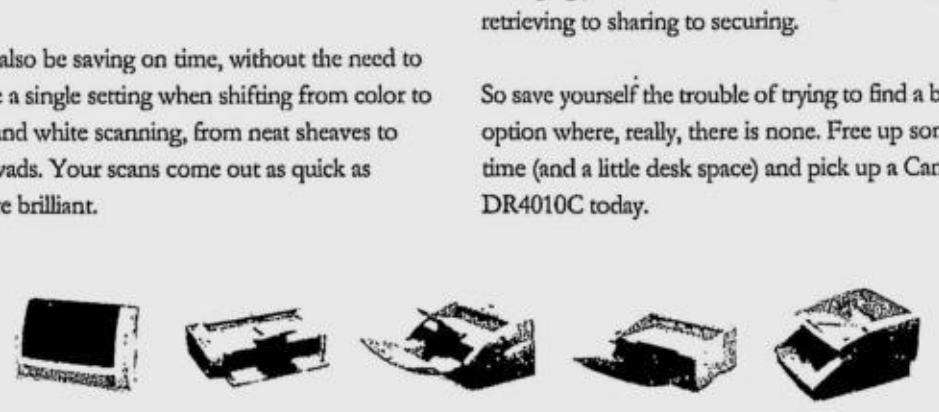

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More Sports stories on A29 to 32

Late SPORTS

Alaska holds off Baguio, Red Bull

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Air21
7:20 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

FOR SIX MINUTES IN THE THIRD quarter, Alaska Aces were clueless on what to do with a problem named Cyrus Baguio.

Then, at the start of the fourth, the problem solved itself.

The high-flying Red Bull wingman was rested when the final period got going and the Aces took advantage of his absence to score a 95-89 decision of the Bulls last night in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Mike Cortez and Willie Miller canned two three pointers each in the payoff period while Tony Dela Cruz, Jeffrey Cariaso and John Ferriols shot accurately from the perimeter as the Aces negated Baguio's 27-point output.

Nic Belasco knocked in a three-pointer at the buzzer to lift the Welcoat Dragons to a come-from-behind 126-125 overtime win over Talk 'N Text in the second game.

The Dragons scored their second victory in six games. The Phone Pals fell to 4-3.

Baguio, taking over the scoring chores from an injured Junthy Valenzuela, pumped in 12 of his total in the third quarter as he moved the Bulls to within a basket, 64-62, after trailing most of the first half.

But assistant coach Gie Abanilla, who subbed for the absent head coach Yeng Guiao, rested his main offensive threat in the opening minutes of the fourth, providing the cue for the Aces to attack.

"I'm so thankful that he wasn't here," said Alaska coach Tim Cone of Guiao—who left for the United States last Saturday for personal reasons—after the Aces improved to 4-3.

Red Bull absorbed its second straight loss and third overall in six games.

Meanwhile, the PBA executive board led by chair Tony Chua meets today to establish the parameters on the league's search for a new commissioner.

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 95—Hugnatan 18, Cortez 17, Miller 15, Ferriols 11, Thoss 9, Cariaso 8, Dela Cruz 6, Quinahan 5, Capus 2, Cabatu 2, Laure 2.

RED BULL 89—Baguio 27, Sharma 13, Cruz 13, Najorda 10, Bugia 7, Robinson 7, Pennisi 7, Hrabak 7, Duncil 0, Membrere 0, Ybanez 0, Camaso 0.

Quarters: 20-25, 43-36, 64-62, 95-89

Second Game

WELCOAT 126—Devance 21, Baguion 20, Belasco 20, Walnwright 19, Reyes 17, Arana 11, Gelig 9, Lopez 7, Ibanes 2, Dulay 0, Sta. Maria 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 125—Alapag 27, Cardona 21, Carey 16, Aljamal 12, Taulava 11, Allado 11, Ritualo 10, De Ocampo 7, Washington 5, Belano 5.

Quarters: 32-31, 53-62, 84-81, 105-all, 126-125

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3 dead, 11 hurt in Marikina mishap

Drunk driver plows into funeral march

By Kristine L. Alave

IT WAS A FUNERAL PROCESSION THAT lead to more grief.

Three people were confirmed killed and 11 more hurt when a vehicle plowed into a funeral procession in Marikina City yesterday afternoon.

P01 Rodel Estevez of the Marikina City police said a Suzuki Samurai Wagon bound for Cubao, Quezon City, crashed into the group of mourners at around 1:30 p.m. on the Marcos Highway.

Police identified the driver as Gerardo Fernando, 41, and a resident of Antipolo City. He was immediately arrested after the incident and could face charges of reckless imprudence resulting to homicide and physical injuries.

According to initial findings, Fernando was drunk and fell asleep behind the wheel.

Investigators also pointed out that Fernando was an inexperienced car driver who was more used to driving a motorcycle because of his work as a messenger.

Those killed were identified as Jay Camelo, 34, a Barangay Sta. Elena resident; Mary Joy Quilar, 38, and Susana Rodriguez, 40. The three were part of the funeral procession.

Camelo died on the spot while the two others passed away while being treated in a hospital.

BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE CITY
The lights of the giant Christmas tree at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City glow brightly, a reminder that the holiday season is just a few weeks away. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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SECTION five of the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9211) prohibits the carrying of any lighted tobacco product in public vehicles, schools, health centers, elevators, cinemas, malls and in places where fire hazards are present. Smoking is also banned in recreational facilities for minors.

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Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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Notice is hereby given that the dissolution of HINGE MEDIA, INC. ("Corporation") by amending its articles of incorporation to shorten the corporate term from fifty (50) years from and after the date of incorporation to until 31 December 2005 was approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock and majority of the Board of Directors of the Corporation in its joint special meeting held on 29 December 2005.

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Choir pays tribute to Tondo's working class hero

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

COMPOSER Jerry Dadap is no fan of singing contests on TV. "How can they find real Pinoy singers if they sing foreign songs?" he asks. PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

IT'S ALMOST THE YULETIDE season but Jerry Dadap and the choir he founded, the Andres Bonifacio Concert Choir, are not about to change their repertoire.

After all, for more than 40 years, the choir has been singing songs that are truly Filipino which Dadap himself composed.

During the group's weekly rehearsal at the Department of Agrarian Reform building in Quezon City, Dadap gives a sign of approval as the choir members confidently nail a high note.

"What we want is to awaken the Filipinos' love and passion for our country through music," he told the INQUIRER. "What sets us apart from other choral groups is that we are the sole choir in the country that sings only patriotic songs."

The group's repertoire includes folk, religious, environmental and love songs sung in different dialects.

Embodiment of patriotism

According to Dadap, he named the group after Bonifacio who, for him, is the embodiment of patriotism and nationalism.

Hailing from Leyte, the 71-year-old Dadap began his music career when he came to Manila in 1956 and enrolled at the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music. In 1965, he formed the choir together with 100 other singers and musicians.

"Our numbers may have dwindled since we started four decades ago but our commitment has remained the same," Dadap pointed out.

He said that of the choir's original members, he is the only one left. The others retired or left to focus on their own careers.

But he added, "My choir members today may not have formal training in music but they sound as good as the pioneers. You can never tell the difference."

"Joining the choral group helped me a lot. I developed my vocal skills under Sir Jerry's training," Lara Babula, 21, one of the choir's newest and youngest members, told the INQUIRER. A business management graduate of the National College of Business and Arts, Babula became part of the group a year ago.

Because of her youth, people often ask if she really feels the meaning of the patriotic songs she sings. "Definitely," said Babula. "Deep inside, I am nationalistic. I feel and enjoy the songs that we perform."

Detached

Not everyone is like Babula, though, Dadap said with regret. "Youngsters today are so detached from our country. Indirectly, they become slaves of foreign countries."

And though there are some newer, more mainstream nationalistic songs that have recently surfaced in the market, Dadap stressed that most of the time, the lyrics contradict the tune or vice versa. "Some of the so-called patriotic songs are vulgar. I prefer to compose my own songs because the children today need to hear a better kind of music," he said.

There are plans for the choir to hold concerts in Europe early next year.

Though a date has yet to be set, Dadap said that this would be the first instance in a very long time that the choral group would be going abroad to perform.

"Filipinos are nostalgic in nature. It's always an honor to be able to play in front of a Filipino audience in a foreign country," the composer said.

"My heart melts every time I see Pinoys in the audience cry when they hear us sing," he added.

Dadap pointed out they often get invitations to perform in schools or institutions. So far, the choir has been to Zamboanga and Bohol provinces, the Ilocos region and Mountain Province, among others, he added.

To raise funds for their upcoming European concert, the group will be performing at the Philamlife Theater in Manila on Nov. 30, which is Bonifacio's birthday.

"I hope my choir and I will be able to instill in Filipinos around the world love for the country," Dadap said. "For the moment, the plan is to just continue honing the skills of my singers."

THE CHOIR members, who come from all walks of life, are excited about going to Europe next year for a concert.

Cheer, dance contests kick off war on drugs

By DJ Yap

THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS need not be all about slogans. For Makati students, it can be fun, too.

This week, students of the city's 42 public and private schools will hold a variety of activities, including cheering and street dance contests aptly dubbed "Mardi-Drugs," in line with the celebration of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week.

Tomorrow, they will participate in rallies that will be held simultaneously with the theme "Sulong Kabataan Laban sa Droga."

Afterward, a short program shall be held to award cash prizes to the winners of the best slogan contest.

On Nov. 15, high school students will participate in a cheer dancing contest at the Glorietta Activity Center.

This will be followed the next day with a Mardi-Drugs street dancing contest at the City Hall quadrangle.

Both competitions are open to students of all public and private high schools in the city.

"Through these activities, we hope to increase awareness and understanding of the evils of drugs among our residents, especially the youth," said Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, also the chair of the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

Mentally disturbed man confesses to 6 stabbings

By Kristine L. Alave

THE MARIKINA CITY POLICE yesterday arrested a man accused of attacking at least six people over the past year.

According to city police chief, Supt. Sotero Ramos, Rodelio Condes Jr., 23, and a canteen helper, told the police that he has stabbed at least six people since 2006. Two of his victims died, Ramos added.

The suspect admitted the charges against him, the police official said, adding that during questioning, Condes showed signs of psychological disturbance.

"He wouldn't make eye contact and he said he came from a broken family," Ramos said.

The latest incident occurred on Nov. 10 when Condes attacked two men identified as Marvin Silva and Ramsey Eraga at the Fiesta Villa Fastfood Chain in Marikina City.

According to the police, the suspect suddenly stabbed the victims whom he accused of giving him an "evil look."

Silva died while undergoing treatment while Eraga remains in critical condition.

Condes was arrested at his home in Barangay San Roque early morning yesterday.

Aside from Silva and Eraga, the suspect was also accused of seriously injuring four people in separate incidents since December 2006.

In August, one of his victims identified as Allan Ortega died from stab wounds.

Condes was detained at the Marikina City police station pending the filing of two murder charges against him.

Spain's king tells Venezuela's Chavez to 'shut up'

SANTIAGO—SPAIN'S KING Juan Carlos told Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Saturday to "shut up" during closing speeches by leaders from the Latin world and brought the Ibero-American summit to an acrimonious end.

"Why don't you shut up?" the king shouted at Chavez, pointing a finger at the president when he tried to interrupt a speech by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Zapatero was in the middle of a speech at the summit of mostly leftist leaders from Latin America, Portugal, Spain and Andorra, and was criticizing Chavez for calling former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar a fascist.

Chavez, a leading leftist foe of Washington, also attacked Spanish businessman Gerardo Diaz Ferran earlier in the week after he questioned the safety of foreign investments in Venezuela.

Chavez, a former soldier, is well-known for fiery speeches laden with rhetoric, bravado and insults—often aimed at the administration of US President George W. Bush.

In the past, he has called Bush a "donkey," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice an "illiterate" and former Mexican President Vicente Fox a "lapdog of imperialism."

Referring to Aznar on Friday, Chavez said, "That former Spanish president ... was a true fascist, a true fascist."

The Spanish delegation was not impressed.

"I want to express to you President Hugo Chavez that in a forum where there are democratic governments ... one of the essential principles is respect," Zapatero said sternly, drawing applause from some of the other heads of state.

Chavez said later the Spanish had come out of the verbal spat looking bad.

"The one who looked bad there was the one who lost control, who told us to shut up as if we were still subjects from the 17th, 18th centuries," he told reporters.

Chavez, who has used his country's oil wealth to spread his self-styled socialist revolution, made his mark on the three-day summit from the start, announcing his arrival earlier in the week with defiant lyrics from a Mexican ballad.

While most heads of state were due to leave Chile on Saturday, Chavez joined some of South America's most left-leaning leaders at a rally of about 3,000 people gathered for a "People's Summit" in a Santiago stadium.

He interrupted his speech at the rally to call Cuba's Fidel Castro, who he considers his mentor. Chavez paraphrased a message from Castro congratulating Chileans who fought against former dictator Augusto Pinochet.

"Well Fidel, what a shame that we don't have speakerphone on this mobile, the people wanted to hear you," said Chavez, dressed in a red T-shirt.

Also at the rally were Bolivia's Evo Morales, Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega.

The 19 leaders at the summit were nearly all leftists and the gathering was mostly friendly. *Reuters*

Indonesia's Anak Krakatau roars

SUNDA STRAIT, INDONESIA—Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano lets out a massive roar as it blasts a gigantic cloud of smoke and flaming red rocks hundreds of meters into the night sky.

A few hours later, a river of lava and stones glowing like embers glide down the slopes of Mount Anak Krakatau as the muted light of the rising sun tries to break through thick clouds settled above the mountain.

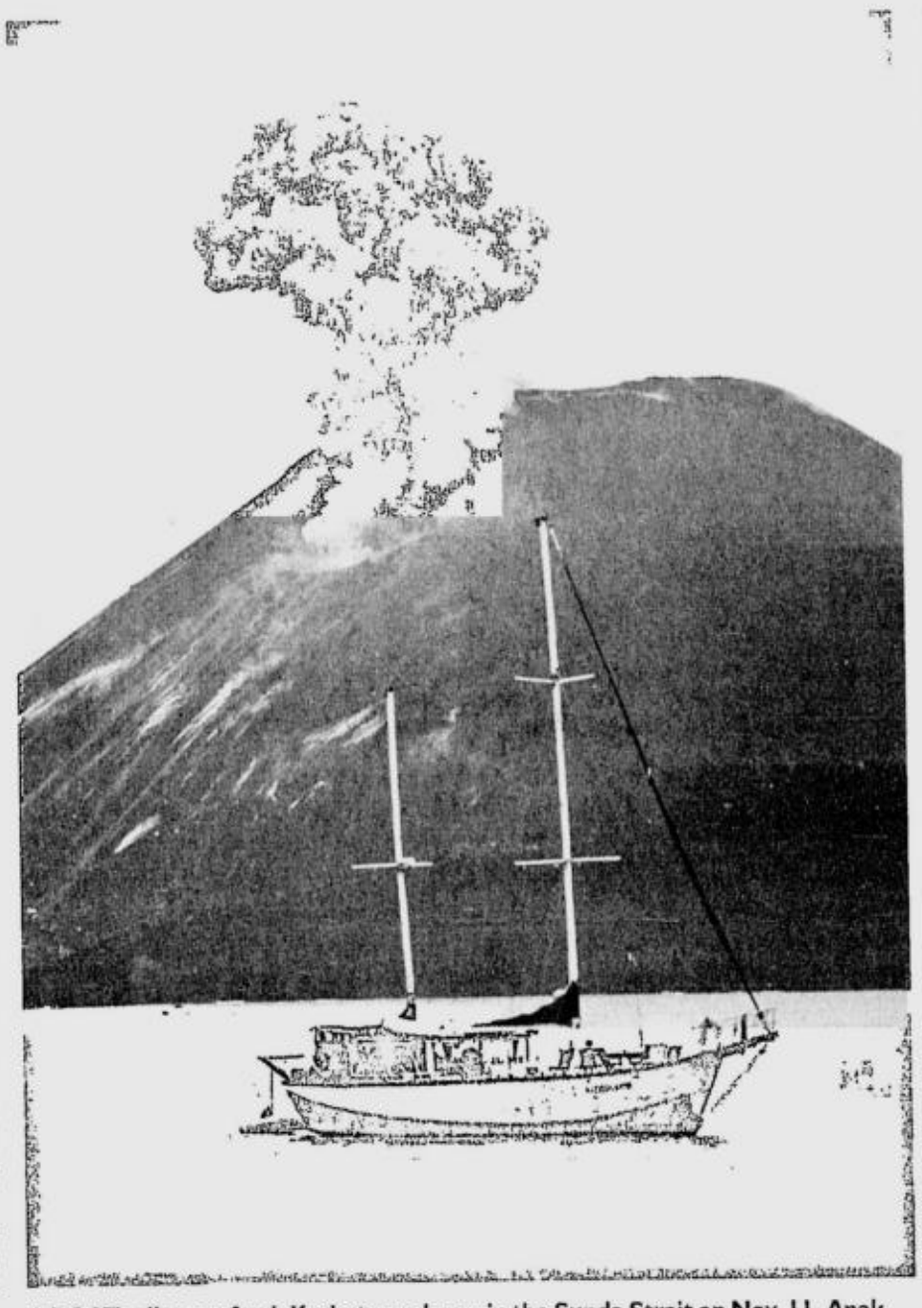
The volcano, whose name means "Child of Krakatau," formed in the Sunda Strait close to Java island after Mount Krakatau's legendary eruption in 1883. It rumbled to life about two weeks ago and since then has been dazzling scientists and visitors with its amazing pyrotechnics.

Scientists monitoring the volcano say Anak Krakatau is not especially dangerous and will continue to rumble for some time, but warn people to stay out of a 3 km zone around the mountain.

"We are a little worried sometimes when we heard the big boom and we see rocks that fall from, I don't know, half kilometer from the hole," Chad Bouchard, one of a group of eight tourists who spent the night in a boat in the ocean to watch the volcano.

"Sometimes we see the splash inside the ocean. That's a little scary but no, I think it might be stupid but I feel safe."

Anak Krakatau gradually formed after the volcanic island of Krakatau blew up in a massive eruption in 1883, triggering tsunamis and killing more than 36,000 people. *Reuters*



A BOAT sails past Anak Krakatau volcano in the Sunda Strait on Nov. 11. Anak Krakatau, about 42 km from the nearest observation post in Serang in Java, is one of four Indonesian volcanoes that have rumbled to life in recent weeks. REUTERS

UN rights expert to visit Burma

RANGOON—UNITED NATIONS HUMAN rights expert Paulo Sergio Pinheiro was due Sunday to start his first visit to military-ruled Burma (also known as Myanmar) in four years, as the regime faced pressure to release political prisoners.

Pinheiro arrives in Burma days after a mission by UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari, who pressed the generals to establish a dialogue with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Both visits come after Burma's military regime in September crushed the biggest prodemocracy protests in nearly two decades, sparking international outcry and increased pressure to reform.

Pinheiro, who has been refused access to Burma since 2003, will arrive in Rangoon (Yangon) on Sunday. On Monday he will travel to the isolated new capital Naypyidaw, a Burma government official who did not wish to be named said.

"He will meet with the foreign minister, labor minister and the human rights committee. He will meet with the prime minister before he goes back to Rangon on November 14th," the official said.

It was not clear if the UN human rights envoy, who leaves Burma on Thursday, would meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, the prodemocracy leader who has spent 12 of the last 18 years locked away at her Rangoon home.

Human rights groups have called on Pinheiro to pressure the junta to release political prisoners arrested after September's rallies, which began in response to a raise in fuel prices but quickly swelled.

The government said 10 people died in the protests and about 3,000 were detained, but diplomats and rights groups put both figures far higher.

Amnesty International on Friday estimated that 700 political prisoners were still in detention, including 91 detained during the recent protests, and accused the authorities of the enforced disappearance of at least 72 people.

The authorities must "immediately and unconditionally release all of those who were arrested for exercising their right to freedom or expression or assembly during the crackdown, as well as all prisoners of conscience held before the recent events," the group demanded.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said the UN Security Council should "redouble efforts to prod Burma's generals into starting a genuine political dialogue and ending human rights abuses."

Both groups called on the junta to cooperate with Pinheiro and give him full and free access to political prisoners.

Gambari's visit ended with the UN declaring that progress had been made, and on Friday, Aung San Suu Kyi met a junta official and members of her political party, the National League for Democracy. *AFP*

Broadway shows are canceled as stagehands strike over work rules

NEW YORK—MOST OF BROADWAY WENT dark on Saturday as stagehands went on strike over new work rules that producers have imposed or have been pushing for in more than three months of contentious negotiations.

The stagehands took their picket signs to the sidewalks about 10 a.m., after a meeting of Local One, their union, at the Westin New York on West 43rd Street.

Twenty-seven Broadway shows, including "Wicked," "Jersey Boys" and "The Lion King," were shuttered, starting with "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical," which was to raise its curtain at 11 a.m.

Only eight shows, which are in theaters that have a separate contract with the union, were still running: "Cymbeline," "Mary Poppins," "Mauritius," "Pygmalion," "The Ritz," "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," "Xanadu" and "Young Frankenstein."

This is the second strike on Broadway in less than five years; the four-day musicians' walkout in 2003 was the first in almost three decades. But this is the first time Local One, a 121-year-old union, has called a strike on Broadway.

The producers and the union last met on Thursday, the second of three negotiating sessions requested by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the parent union of Local One.

Disappointed theatergoers were left facing the options available after plans fell through. "I would say a little bit more than disappointed," said Beverly Krein, 63, a trainer for Curves from Fargo, N.D., who had come to New York with her daughter and granddaughter for a weekend of theater. The League of American Theaters and Producers has announced refunds for tickets to shows that are not performing.

The dispute has largely been about the rules that govern how many stagehands must be called for work, how long they work and what kind of tasks they can perform. League members say the rules invariably result in groups of stagehands on the clock with nothing to do.

The league, with a $20 million emergency fund, and the union, with a $4.1-million fund, have made preparations for a work stoppage, though no one knows how long one would last. *NYT*

4,000-yr-old temple unearthed in Peru

LIMA—A 4,000-YEAR-OLD TEMPLE filled with murals has been unearthed on the northern coast of Peru, making it one of the oldest finds in the Americas, a leading archeologist said on Saturday.

The temple, inside a larger ruin, includes a staircase that leads up to an altar used for fire worship at a site scientists have called Ventarron, said Peruvian archeologist Walter Alva, who led the dig.

It sits in the Lambayeque valley, near the ancient Sipan complex that Alva unearthed in the 1980s. Ventarron was built long before Sipan, about 2,000 years before Christ, he said.

"It's a temple that is about 4,000 years old," Alva, director of the Museum Tumbas Reales (Royal Tombs) of Sipan, told Reuters by telephone after announcing the results of carbon dating at a ceremony north of Lima sponsored by Peru's government.

"What's surprising are the construction methods, the architectural design and most of all the existence of murals that could be the oldest in the Americas," he said.

Lambayeque is 760 km from Lima, Peru's capital.

Discoveries at Sipan, an administrative and religious center of the Moche culture, have included a gold-filled tomb built 1,700 years ago for a pre-Incan king.

Peru is rich in archeological treasures, including the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu in the Andes.

Until the arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s, the Incas ruled an empire for several centuries that stretched from Colombia and Ecuador in the north to what are now Peru and Chile in the south.

"The discovery of this temple reveals evidence suggesting the region of Lambayeque was one of great cultural exchange between the Pacific coast and the rest of Peru," said Alva. *Reuters*

It's a century late, but Einstein's still right on time

PARIS—TIME, AS WE ALL KNOW, is relative: good experiences seem to fly by, whereas bad ones seem to drag on forever.

"After two hours, I looked at my watch," a reviewer of Wagnerian opera is said to have written. "I found that 17 minutes had gone by."

In 1905, Albert Einstein wrote his own treatise on the relativity of time, famously theorizing that time speeds up or slows down according to how fast an object is moving in relation to another object.

Thus, according to his hypothesis, a clock which is in motion ticks more slowly than an identical clock which is at rest—a phenomenon that Einstein called time dilation.

In a study published on Sunday, the most accurate experiment yet into time dilation has proven the great German physicist to be bang on target.

An international team of researchers used a particle accelerator to whizz two beams of atoms around a doughnut-shaped course to represent Einstein's faster-moving clocks.

They then timed the beams using high-precision laser spectroscopy and found that, compared with the outside world, time for these atomic travelers did indeed slow down.

"We were able to determine the effect more precisely than ever before," said lead researcher Gerald Gwinner of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada.

"We found the observed effect to be in complete agreement."

The experiments, said Gwinner, confirm the technology aboard US military satellites that provide the signals for the Global Positioning System (GPS)—the "satnav" network that is used as a navigational aid around the world.

GPS satellites have precise atomic clocks on board in order to send out synchronized signals that are then transcribed by trigonometry to give one's position.

"GPS uses satellites to measure the position of objects on the ground, but it needs to take into account the fact that the satellites themselves are in motion at high speeds as they orbit the Earth," said Gwinner.

"Our test validates the theory used by the devices to compensate for the satellites' motion."

The experiments took place at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg, Germany, and include researchers from that organization, the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics in Garching and Mainz University.

The findings were published online Sunday by the journal Nature Physics.

The first measurement of Einstein's time dilation took place in 1938, when US scientists used the Doppler effect—the change in pitch when a sound and the person hearing it are moving apart or closer together—as the measuring tool.

Einstein's theory of relativity has become the basis for innumerable science fiction tales, for it opens up the prospect of bending and distorting time.

If one of two identical twins were launched into space at very high speed, when he returned home, he would be younger than his earthbound twin. *AFP*

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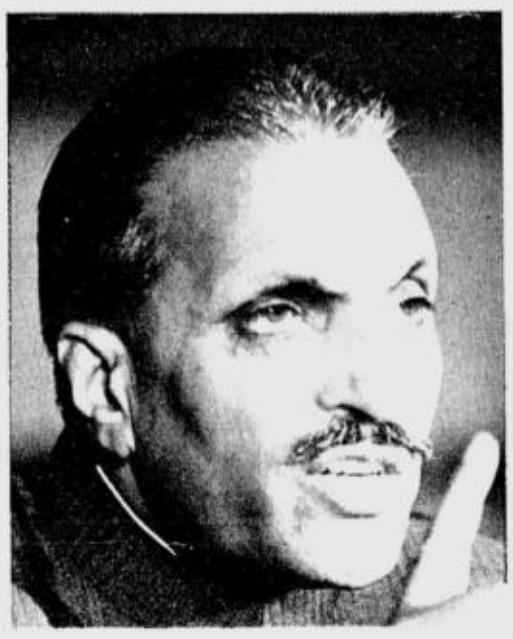
Business can be simple

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



A COMBO picture shows Pakistan's military rulers, from top left, clockwise, President Gen. Ziaul Haq, President Field Marshall Ayub Khan, President Gen Yayha Khan and President Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Musharraf's declaration of emergency rule was not the first time the Army has demonstrated its supremacy in Pakistan. It is also unlikely to be the last. AP

Musharraf lets military courts try civilians

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ruler has amended a law to give Army courts sweeping powers to try civilians on charges ranging from treason to inciting public unrest, officials said Sunday, as the country's opposition leader prepared to stage a 300-kilometer protest march in defiance of a ban.

The moves came one week after President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said he was imposing a state of emergency to help fight Islamic militancy. But the main targets of his crackdown have been his most outspoken critics, including the increasingly independent judiciary and media.

The Army chief—under pressure from the United States and other Western allies to return to the path of democracy—won praise for agreeing Saturday to lift the emergency within weeks and hold elections by Feb. 15, just one month later than originally scheduled.

US President George W. Bush described the promises as "positive," throwing Washington's support firmly behind the embattled Pakistani leader, whom he has in the past described as a good friend.

But a decision to amend the Pakistan Army Act—confirmed by Attorney General Malik Mohammed Qayyum on Sunday—is likely to raise fresh concerns. It would allow military courts to try people accused of treason, sedition, or "giving statements conducive to public mischief."

In theory, that could include Bhutto, who said she would defy Musharraf's ban on public gatherings and lead supporters on a march from the eastern city of Lahore to the capital Islamabad on Tuesday.

"When the masses combine, the sound of their steps will suppress the sound of military boots," Bhutto, a former prime minister, told hundreds of protesters Saturday, almost immediately after she was freed from 24 hours of house arrest.

Addressing supporters through a loudspeaker, she said Taliban and al-Qaida-linked militants were gaining ground in the country's turbulent northwest. She also said Musharraf's military-led government was about to crumble.

"This government is standing on its last foot," the former prime minister said, as dozens of supporters scuffled briefly with police. "This government is going to go."

Thousands of people have been arrested, TV news stations taken off air, and judges removed from office since Musharraf imposed his state of emergency.

Musharraf was to hold a press conference with foreign journalists later Sunday. Three reporters from Britain's Daily Telegraph meanwhile left Pakistan on Sunday after being expelled in protest of a commentary in their newspaper that used an expletive in reference to Musharraf.

The United States considers Musharraf a bulwark in its so-called war on terrorism, but some US officials have expressed concern that Pakistan's political crisis would actually distract its efforts against a militant threat that has spread from the Afghan border region to the capital and beyond.

Bush sidestepped a question on that issue, saying he has confidence in the commitment of Pakistan's leadership to stick with the US in its global fight against extremists. "One country we need cooperation from is Pakistan," he told reporters in his home state of Texas.

Bhutto's jubilant homecoming procession last month following eight years in exile was marred by twin suicide bombings. She escaped unharmed, but more than 140 people died in the attack, widely blamed on Islamic militants. *AP*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Big 3 lifts Celtics to 5th straight triumph /A32

SPORTS

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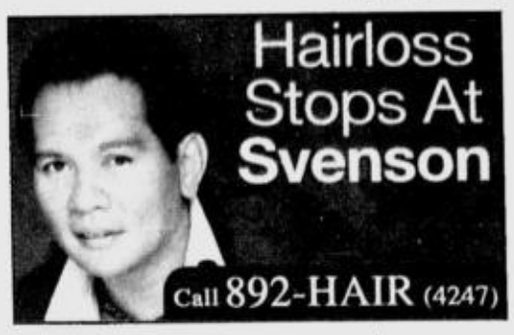


Arcilla, Arevalo breeze to victory

By Marc Anthony Reyes

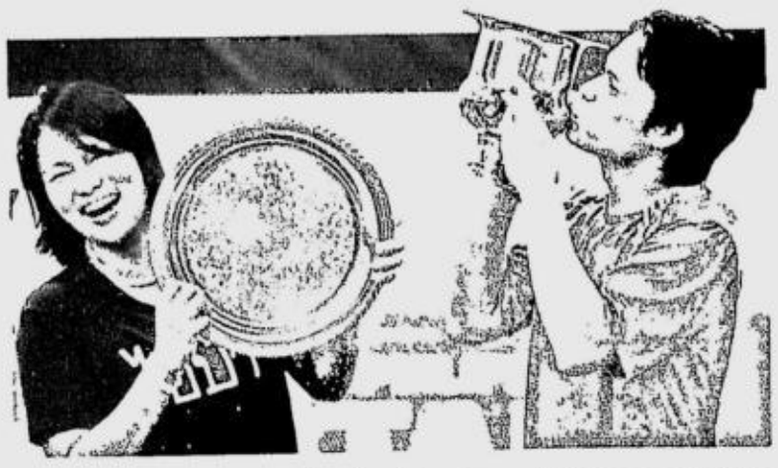
JOHNNY ARCILLA AND CZARINA MAE Arevalo fashioned out similar easy victories yesterday and sustained their domination of the men's and women's singles of the Philippine Columbian Association Open at the PCA shell courts.

Arevalo routed first-timer Michelle Pang, 6-3, 6-1, to snare her fourth PCA singles title while Arcilla surprised everybody with the class he showed in thrashing fellow Davis Cupper Patrick John Tierro, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

The 27-year-old Arcilla, who also won the singles title in 2001 and 2006, hardly encountered any threat from the erratic Tierro, who appeared to sleepwalk in the second and third sets.

"I didn't expect it to be easy," said Arcilla in Filipino. "He (Tierro) told me he got nervous."

The veteran Arcilla, who fell flat on his back and made a sign of the cross after Tierro's wayward service return at match point, attributed his newfound sharpness to a training regimen under handlers James Wilkinson and Dave Mercado.



CZARINA Mae Arevalo and Johnny Arcilla are thrilled to be champs again. Arevalo justified her seeding while Arcilla pulled the rug from under PJ Tierro.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Tierro led, 4-2, in the first set as he exploited Arcilla's weak returns. But after Arcilla held serve for 4-3, Tierro lost his cool when his backhand down the line was called out.

The 21-year-old Tierro howled in disbelief but returned to finish the match. But he was no longer the same man as Arcilla broke him en route to taking the set.

"He got distracted easily and committed errors, while I patiently tried to get the ball back," said Arcilla.

Earlier Arevalo claimed her fourth title in six years after a lopsided match that lasted only one hour and 10 minutes.

Arevalo and Denise Dy bagged the women's doubles title after beating sisters Bien and Bambi Zoleta, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2, Saturday night.

Last-gasp V-League bid for FEU tossers

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY SETS OUT to force a playoff for the fifth and last semifinal seat in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference when it battles Ateneo today at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Tamaraws will have to accomplish the task in their 3 p.m. match without top player Rachel Anne Daquis, who is out due to a sprained ankle probably for the rest of the tournament.

The 20-year-old Daquis sustained the injury during the second set of their losing game against San Sebastian College last Nov. 5.

If Far Eastern succeeds in turning back the Lithawat Kesinee-led Ateneo, it will meet the loser of tomorrow's Adamson-La Salle tussle for the last semifinal berth.

But if FEU loses, Adamson and La Salle automatically clinch the fourth and fifth slots while the Lady Tamaraws duplicate their sixth-place finish in the first two stagings of the tournament.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC	5	0
UST	5	1
Ateneo	4	2
Adamson	3	3
La Salle	3	3
FEU	2	4
Lyceum	2	5
Letran	0	6

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs Far Eastern
5 p.m.—UST vs SSC

Ateneo is coming off a loss to rival La Salle, also last Nov. 5, 25-23, 25-19, 25-20.

The unbeaten San Sebastian Lady Stags eye a 6-0 card against first conference finals tormentor University of Santo Tomas Tigresses in the 5 p.m. match

A victory by the Lady Stags would move them just a win away from sweeping the elimination phase.

Only winless Letran stands in the way of the three-peat NCAA winner.

The Tigresses want to end their elimination campaign on a winning note, though, and a chance to tie the Lady Stags for first place going into the carryover semifinal.

Romina S. Austria

MANILA'S Romel Roja slides into the tag of Taguig third baseman Mark Alvin Bernardino. RODEL ROTONI

Makati IX trips Cebu; Dumaguete prevails

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MAKATI SCORED IN ALL BUT four innings to hack out a vengeful 7-3 victory over Cebu, even as Dumaguete scored its third straight win yesterday in the Baseball Philippines Series 2 at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium.

The Mariners built a 5-1 lead after five innings while pitcher Jonjon Robles kept the Dolphins at bay with a three-hit, eight-strikeout performance.

While the Dolphins remained on top at 4-2, the Mariners improved to 3-3 as they avenged an 11-4 rout last week.

Darwin dela Calzada struck out 11 batters and gave up just five hits as the Dumaguete Unibikers blasted the Marikina Shoe Makers, 4-1.

Dumaguete, which dropped its first three games, and Marikina also ended up with 3-3 slates in the tournament organized by Community Sports Inc.

The third game between Taguig and Manila was suspended on account of darkness after 11 innings with the score tied at 12.

Organizers have yet to set a date for the resumption of the match.

Robles broke the ice for Makati, scoring on a single by Erwin Manuel in the first inning, and the Mariners manufactured at least a run except in the second, third, sixth and eight innings.

Linescores:	R	H	E
MAKATI 100-220-101	7	11	2
CEBU 000-100-002	3	8	4

DUMAGUETE 202-000-000	4	6	2
MARIKINA 000-010-000	1	5	2

Bibat makes move with 71

MIKE BIBAT ATONED for a disastrous 78 in the first round with a one-under-par 71 Saturday but remained eight strokes off the pace halfway through the Sanlam Cape Province Open 2007 in George, South Africa.

Bibat, bronze medalist in last year's Asian Games, gunned down three birdies in another windy day at the George Golf Club.

He had a two-round total of 149, eight shots off Oliver Bekker and Nicholas Mitchell, who also struggled with a 73 and a 74, respectively, to share the lead.

Ferdie Aunzo, the best scorer among the six ICTSI golfers with a 73 Friday, returned a 76 to drop into a tie with Bibat and Anthony Fernando (75).

Gene Bondoc also fired a 75 but stood 10 shots off the pace at 151. Miko Alejandro and Gino Bunyi missed the cut at 152.

Lions get going vs Tacloban champs

SAN BEDA SETS OUT AS HEAVY FAvorite despite the absence of its top gun when it hosts Sacred Heart College in the Collegiate Champions League today at the San Beda Gym.

Yousif Aljamal has moved up to the pro league, but Ogie Menor, 6-foot-8 Nigerian Sam Ekwe and other vital cogs in the Lions' two-year NCAA reign will be back for a shot at the Round of 8.

GAMES TODAY
(San Beda Gym)
2 p.m.—UST vs Mapua
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Sacred Heart

Santo Tomas and Mapua collide earlier at 2 p.m. in this tournament which pit the top 16 collegiate teams in the country.

Far Eastern earned a Round of 8 slot after ousting CUSA champ Manuel L. Quezon U, 91-80, last Saturday.

Ranked second, the Lions emerged as the team to beat following the withdrawal of top seed La Salle and fourth-ranked University of the East.

The Archers opted to take a break from competition, while the Warriors questioned their surprisingly low tournament seeding.

Jasmine W. Payo

Peping seeking second term

IT'S OFFICIAL: PHILippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco is seeking a second term.

"*Pwede pa siguro. Sayang naman ang naumpisahang programa* (I think I'm good for another term. We have to finish the programs we've started)," said Cojuangco, whose term ends after the Olympics in August.

The former congressman, who ran unopposed in 2004 and took over from Celso Dayrit, confirmed his reelection bid to mediamen over the weekend.

He is expected to be opposed by Dayrit, who is reportedly being supported by a group of National Sports Association heads led by athletics' Go Teng Kok.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Record 'Bakbakan' entry list

THE SEMIFINALS OF the 2007 NFGB National Bakbakan 10-Stag Derby, which has drawn a record 1,463 entries, gets going tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) officials Ricoy Palmares and Fred Katigbak said the final tally surpassed last year's 1,273 entries.

Only three breeders have reached the finals with perfect scores of six wins each, They are Dr. Ayong Lorenzo of Rizal GBA (EDL Excellence Gamefowl Specialists), Alex Ty of Cagayan Valley GBA (Adrian Mark) and Taba Davao of Minda GBA.

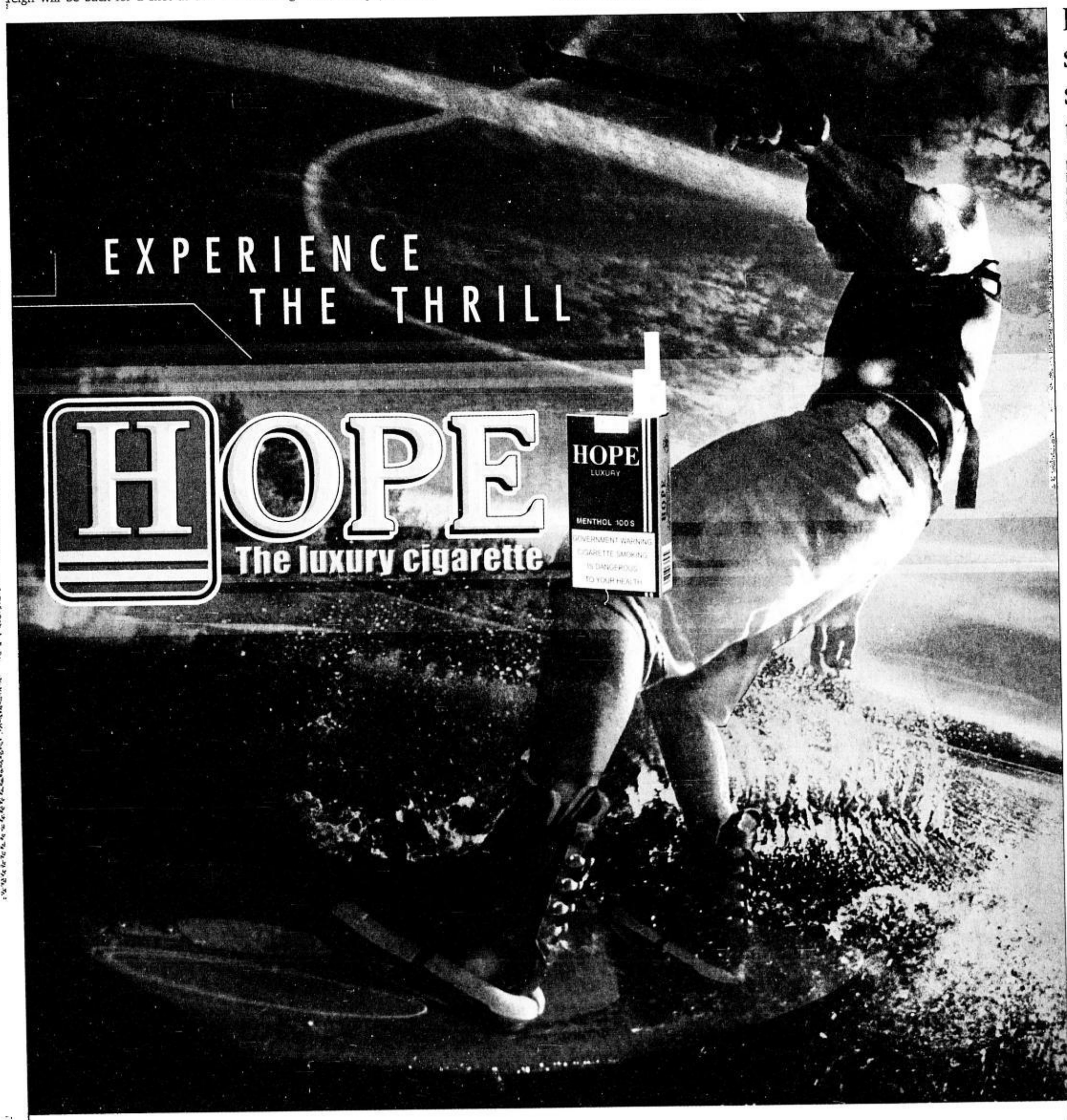
A guaranteed prize of P15 million awaits the champions.

Lagba derby finals today

MORE THAN 70 fights are on the roster in the LAGBA Grand Championship 5-stag derby kicking off at 4 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum.

Today's fifth and final leg will determine the Laguna Gamecock Breeders Association Stagfighter of the Year.

Among the frontrunners are Sonny Lagon, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Boy Marzo, Peter Uren, Tony Lizares, Jun Marasigan and Pol Estrellado.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

POF stars, Nationals show wares today

By June Navarro

THE CULMINATION OF A YEAR-long effort to infuse new blood into the national team begins today with the holding of the national championships of the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

About 3,000 athletes, who survived the regional qualifying games, will show their wares against the national athletes in 17 disciplines and two demonstration sports, all of them hoping to clinch a slot in the national pool.

The week-long meet seeks to discover and train talents for the 2012 London Olympics.

"With the convergence of efforts among the national sports associations, the POC and the local government units, the POF is offering a clear pathway to the London Games," said Philippine Olympic Committee and POF chair Robert Aventajado.

The Bicol Southern Tagalog and Mindanao qualifiers produced a slew of upcoming swimmers capable of making the national pool while the Visayas and National Capital Region meets boast of prized finds in athletics.

Joining Aventajado in the 4 p.m. opening ceremony are POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, IOC representative Frank Elizalde and Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez.

Zamboanga Del Norte Rep. Cesar Jalosjos will declare the sportsfest open.

Coach Baculi now spurns major revamp for cagers

By Roy Luarca

SINGAPORE—HARBOUR CENTRE-PHILippines coach June Baculi heaved a sigh of relief after watching his wards huff and puff in practice Sunday.

He no longer sees the need for a major revamp of the Nationals, whose capability to defend their Southeast Asian Games basketball crown is being doubted by many back home.

Baculi believes that the likely addition of Fil-American Gabe Norwood and one or two more defensive players will be enough to carry them past the Thais and the Malaysians, who are said to be their strongest opponents for the title in the SEAG set in Thailand next month.

There are plans to tap key players from the Philippine Basketball Association to boost the team, but it seems Baculi has no need for them now.

The Nationals, Baculi noted, have reached 70 percent of their full potential, gauging from their last win over San Mig Coffee in the PBL.

He is hoping that their four-game series here, starting with the Singapore national team late Sunday afternoon at the Singapore Indoor Stadium would give the Nationals the fluidity and cohesion they've been searching for since they were formed in September.

Several changes in manpower have sidetracked the team's preparations since then, but Mikee Romero, amateur basketball "godfather," remains hopeful that the Nationals will be up to the task in Thailand.

Team coordinator Eric Arejola said Romero would be flying in Sunday to watch the Nationals battle the Singaporeans, the American Navy on Monday, the Australian pro team Singapore Slingers on Tuesday and the European Selection on Wednesday.

"Give me two or more players and our goal (SEAG title) will be workable and achievable," said Baculi, who will send assistant coaches Louie Alas, Beaujing Acot and Ryan Dy to nearby Johor Baru, Malaysia, on Monday to scout the Malaysian national team which will play against the core of the Indonesian five.

Also being eyed by Baculi as reinforcements are bruiser Erick Rodriguez of Toyota Balintawak and high flyer Elmer Espiritu of Pharex.

The Nationals boasts of two-time PBL MVP Jason Castro, former pro Alex Crisano, Beau Belga and UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz.

RP duels rest of world in Calapan

RONNIE ALCANO and Marlon Manalo spearhead Team Philippines against a squad of foreign stars in the SMC-Kabayan World 9-Ball Challenge which starts today at the Filipiniana Hotel in Calapan City.

Alcano was dethroned as world champion while the Manalo bowed to Poland's Radoslaw Babica in the last 64 of this year's World Pool Championship.

"I didn't exactly play bad," said Manalo of his 1-10 defeat. "I just wasn't given much chances to show my stuff."

Joining Alcano and Manalo are Asian Games 9-ball gold medalist Antonio Gabica, Pacquiao International Open champ Jeffrey De Luna and former Asian Games gold medalist and Asian Tour leg winner Gandy Valle.

They will be up against a team made up of former US Open winner Rodney Morris, Marcus Chamat, Darren Appleton, Karl Boyes and ex-world snooker champ John Higgins.

Players of opposing squads clash in 10-rack matches.
Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

NBC-Spring five flies to Johor today

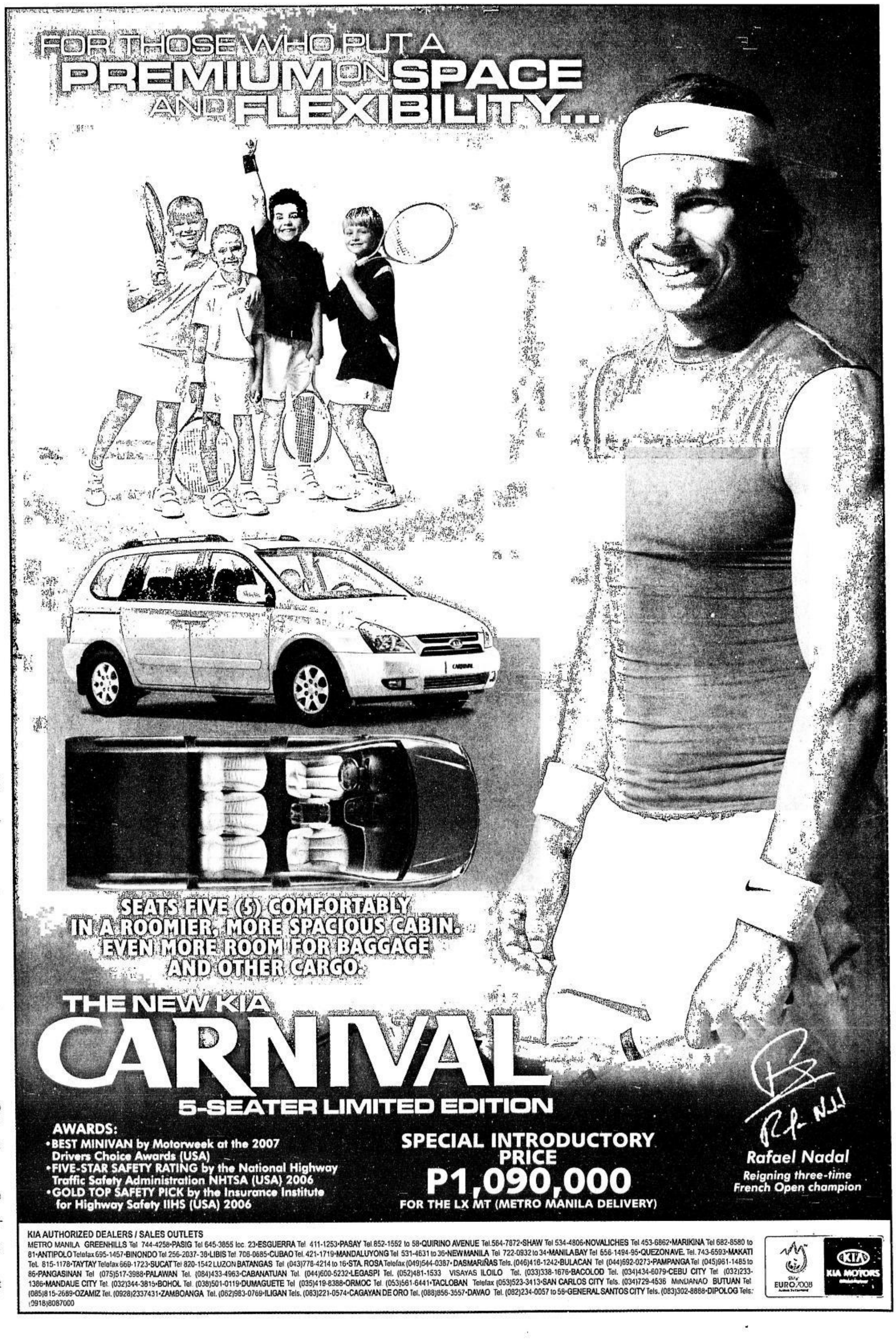
THE NBC-SPRING Cooking Oil Selection flies to Malaysia today to compete in the 2007 Johor Invitational Basketball Tournament.

The Filipinos will vie against a collegiate team from China, Indonesia Basketball League's Aspac and the national squads of Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

The team's trip is bankrolled by Spring Cooking Oil of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and supported by Montaña Pawnshop of Armando Quibod, Sulpicio Lines and official outfitter Champion Sportswear.

Malaysia's National Basketball League will send a team to the Philippines to compete in the Tagaytay-NBC International Invitational later this month.

Boysie Zamar is the head coach of the Filipinos who will open their campaign against Hong Kong tomorrow at the Larkin stadium.



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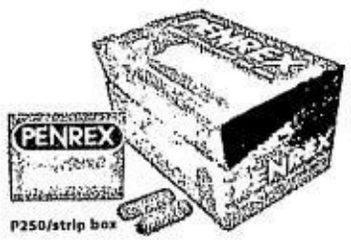

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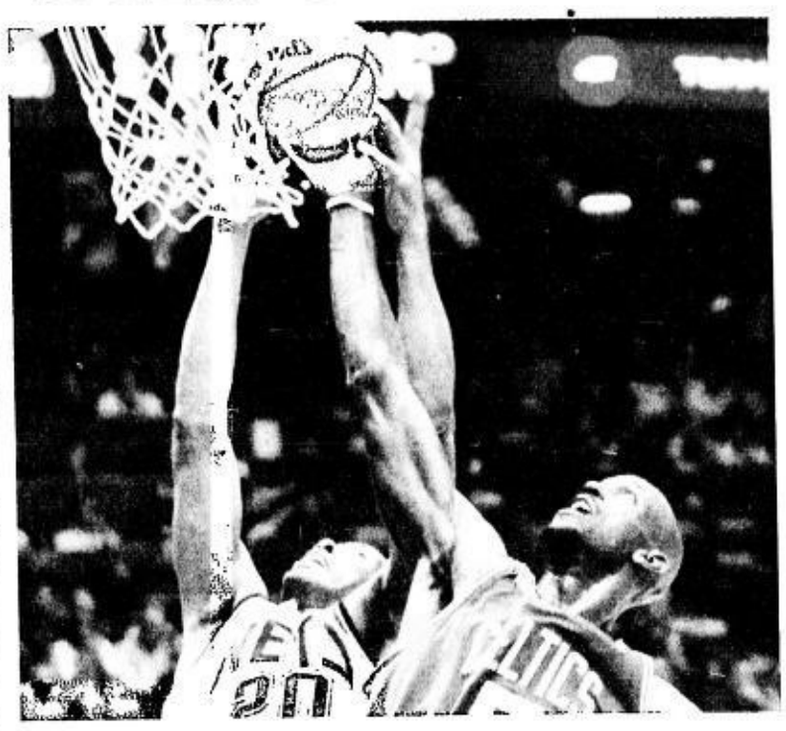


BOSTON big man Kevin Garnett (right), a third of the Celtics' latest edition of the Big Three, hauls down one of his 14 rebounds against New Jersey's Jamaal Magloire. AP

Big 3 lifts Celtics to 5th straight triumph

GAME TODAY (*Basketball TV*)
10 a.m.—Detroit vs. Seattle (*replay at 9 p.m.*)

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—The red-hot Boston Celtics got 73 points from their new "Big Three" and remained the NBA's only unbeaten team after a 112-101 road victory over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday.

The 5-0 Celtics are off to their best start since going 6-0 in 1987-88, when Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish led the way. The 2008 version of the Big Three—Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen—have Boston firing on all cylinders.

Pierce scored 28 points, Allen 27 and Garnett added 18 points and 14 rebounds to take care of the Nets.

The win came just hours after their coach Doc Rivers attended his father's funeral. He returned in time to run the game.

"It says a lot about us," Pierce told reporters. "We didn't know if Doc was going to be here. We've got two rotation players out (injured) and we responded."

Richard Jefferson led the Nets (4-2) with 28 points while Jason Kidd had 17 points, 12 assists and six rebounds and Vince Carter 17 points. Carter left in the third quarter with a sprained ankle.

"I'll see how it feels tomorrow and we'll go from there," said Carter. "I don't want to put a timetable on it."

In other games, it was Trail Blazers 91, Mavericks 82; Kings 100, Timberwolves 93; Suns 106, Magic 96; Jazz 118, Grizzlies 94; Nuggets 113, Pacers 106 and Raptors 101, Bulls 71. *Reuters, AP*

Miñoza ends up way back in the end

SHANGHAI—FRANKIE MIÑOZA DROPPED six strokes in a six-hole stretch on the back nine and finished well back of the pack even as American star Phil Mickelson lifted the HSBC Champions title after beating the English duo of Ross Fisher and Lee Westwood at the second playoff hole on Sunday.

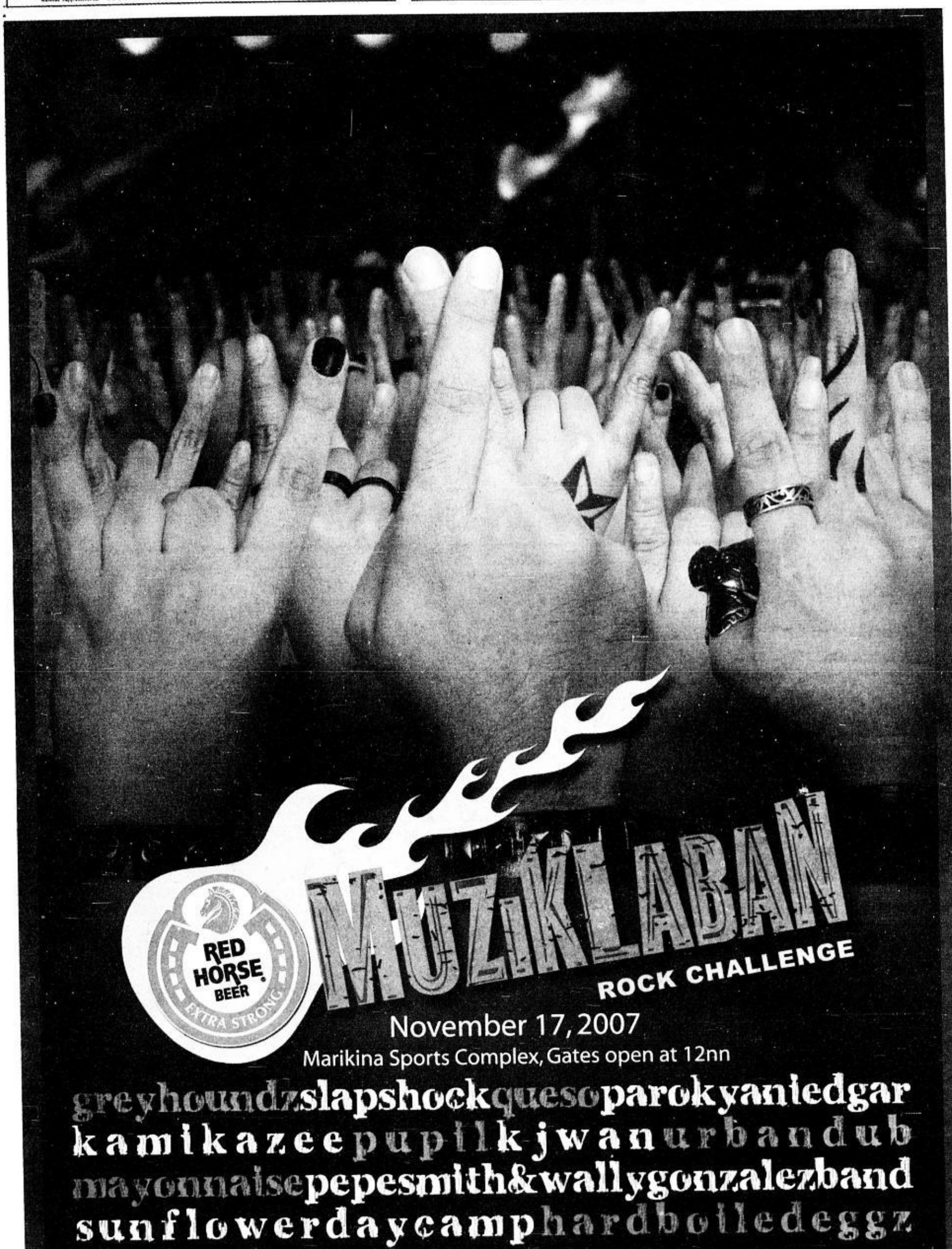
The Filipino star, who won his seventh career title on the rich Japan Tour three weeks ago, carded a 78 on the final 18 holes after earlier rounds of 69-70-75 and wound up with a four-over 292 total that left him in a tie for 33rd place.

Miñoza, also the Philippine Open champion last February, posted nines of 37-41, his collapse on the backside highlighted by a triple bogey on the par 5 14th. He also bogeyed the 10th, 12th and 16th holes.

Juvic Pagunsan wound up fourth from last at 17-over 305 with scores of 71-78-82-74.

Mickelson, the three-time Major winner sealed his victory with a birdie at the par five 18th second playoff hole at the Sheshan International Golf Club.

Westwood was forced to the runner-up spot after his ball found the water while Fisher missed a 10 foot birdie putt at the 18-hole championship course. All three players had previously parred the first extra hole on the 18th. *Asian Tour News*



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Gov't spending seen to boost economy

Taking up the slack from expected US slowdown

By Doris C. Dumlao

JAPANESE STOCKBROKERAGE GIANT NOMURA SECURITIES sees government-led infrastructure investment taking up the slack from an expected US economic slowdown and helping stabilize the Philippine economy over the next two years.

In an economic report dated Nov. 6, Nomura upgraded its real gross domestic product (GDP) growth outlook on the country to 6.4 percent from 6.1 percent following the stronger-than-expected expansion of 7.5 percent in the first semester.

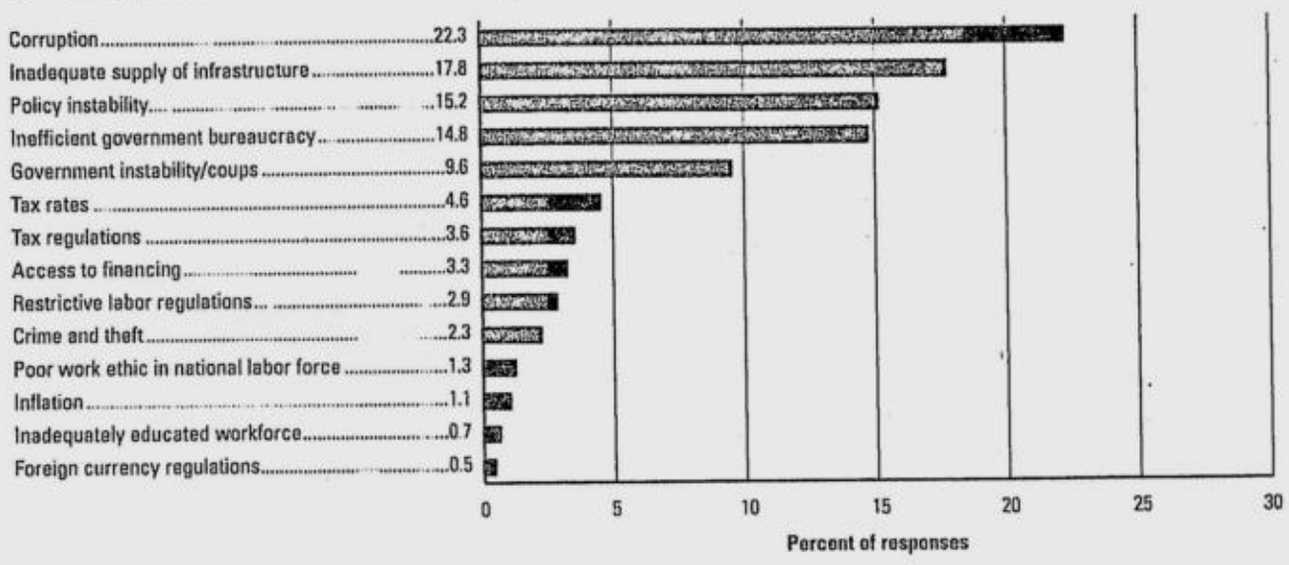
The forecast growth for 2008 was kept at 5.7 percent while a growth of 5.8 percent was projected for 2009.

GDP, the single most important indicator of real output, refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy for a given period.

"The heightened risk of a slowdown in the US economy has increased the possibility of a gradual slowdown in the Philippine economy in the second half of 2007. However, we think the local economy will maintain a stable growth in 2008 and 2009, driven by domestic demand, particularly from public-sector infrastructure invest-

GOV'T/ B2

The most problematic factors for doing business



Note: From a list of 14 factors, respondents were asked to select the five most problematic for doing business in their country and to rank them between 1 (most problematic) and 5. The bars in the figure show the responses weighted according to their rankings.

Source: World Economic Forum and Makati Business Club Research

Corruption, poor infrastructure dragging RP competitiveness

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of two parts)

CORRUPTION AND POOR INFRASTRUCTURE remain the most problematic factors in doing business in the Philippines, according to a recent survey conducted among the country's business elite.

Despite these lingering concerns, the survey conducted by the Makati Business Club (MBC) for the World Economic Forum's 2007-2008 Global Competitiveness Report showed that the country's rank improved to 71st place from 75th in the previous edition.

SPECIAL REPORT

The country's improved ranking is due mainly to its relative macroeconomic stability, a significant decrease in domestic inflation and interest rates and lower government deficit and debt levels.

"What this shows is that the Philippines is moving up the competitiveness ladder, although we have to address the issues of corruption and [inadequate] infrastructure," MBC senior research associate Michael B. Mundo said in an interview.

According to the MBC, however, the country's overall competitiveness was pulled down by its poor performance in four key pillars: labor market efficiency, institutions, infrastructure, and health and primary education.

The results of the global competitiveness ranking were based on surveys of more than 11,000 business executives from 131 nations.

Locally, the survey was conducted among 37 MBC member firms, 22.3 percent of whose executives were concerned about corruption, while 17.8 percent were concerned about the country's relatively weak infrastructure system.

Out of 131 countries included in the competitiveness survey, the Philippines ranked 116th in the category of perceived diversion of public funds.

The country ranked even lower—119th place worldwide—when businessmen were asked to rate the public trust of politicians. The country also ranked 100th in terms of favoritism in decisions of government officials, and 117th in the burden of government regulation.

All told, the Philippines held an overall "competitive disadvantage" in the field of institutions when

CORRUPTION/ B4

SMC firms up bid for 60% stake in PNOC-EDC

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SAN MIGUEL CORP., SOUTHEAST ASIA'S biggest food and beverage company, has teamed up with American asset management group Avenue Asia for its bid to buy the government's 60-percent stake in geothermal power producer PNOC Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC).

San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang said the partnership would be coursed through San Miguel's wholly owned power investments unit, San Miguel Energy Corp.

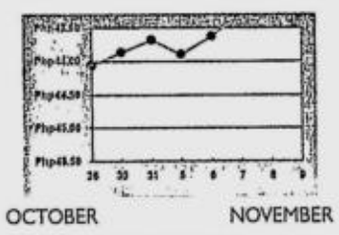
INQUIRER sources said Avenue Asia was partnering with San Miguel through its Dutch special vehicle firm Beleggingsmaatchappij Broem BV.

The government earlier announced that San Miguel Energy and Beleggingsmaatchappij Broem BV have joined forces to form Panasia Energy Holdings Inc., a joint venture company, for the

SMC FIRMS/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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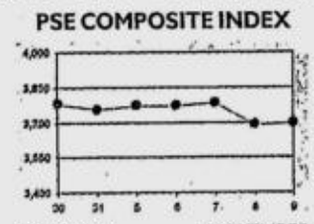
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B8)

Cautious trading seen

STOCK INVESTORS THIS WEEK ARE expected to track Wall Street's performance and listen to fresh leads on the health of the US economy.

"The Philippine equity market may follow global equity markets as lingering concerns on the subprime fallout in the US continue to spook investors. Any meaningful market correction should be seen as a buying opportunity," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management.

US stock prices as measured by the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped by more than 220 points Friday after major banks like Bank of America Corp., JP Morgan Chase & Co. and Wachovia Corp. said they might post heavy losses in the fourth quarter due to the ongoing credit crunch.

Prince Yeung, analyst at AB Capital Securities, noted in a weekly report that investors would likely be cautious this week as they await fresh leads regarding the US economy.

CAUTIOUS/ B4

WHO urges gov't to increase cigarette tax

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION has urged the Philippine government to raise the excise tax on cigarettes, saying the measly tax in the country was not helping the cause of fighting tobacco-related diseases.

In a letter to the Department of Finance, the health agency noted that the Philippines had the lowest excise tax on cigarettes among Southeast Asian countries.

"They (WHO) asked us if we could raise the tax some more because it is true that the tax here is low compared with what is imposed in neighboring countries," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters Friday.

Beltran said the DOF was willing to push for the proposal to raise the excise tax on cigarettes, agreeing that the current tax rates were outdated. He said, however, that increasing cigarette taxes would not be easy as industry players were expected to lobby strongly against it.

WHO said the cigarette tax in Singapore was equivalent to $192.56 per 1,000 sticks. In Brunei, the rate is equivalent to $39.30. In Malaysia, cigarettes are taxed $23.29 per 1,000 sticks.

But in the Philippines, the excise tax on cigarettes ranged from only $2.42 to $29.28 per 1,000 sticks. Cigarettes in the Philippines are divided into four classifications, and the tax rates differed based on price.

Beltran noted that most cigarettes are taxed based on their 1997 prices. The Bureau of Internal Revenue is prohibited from automatically raising the tax to match a corresponding increase in price. An increase in the tax rate may only be done through legislation.

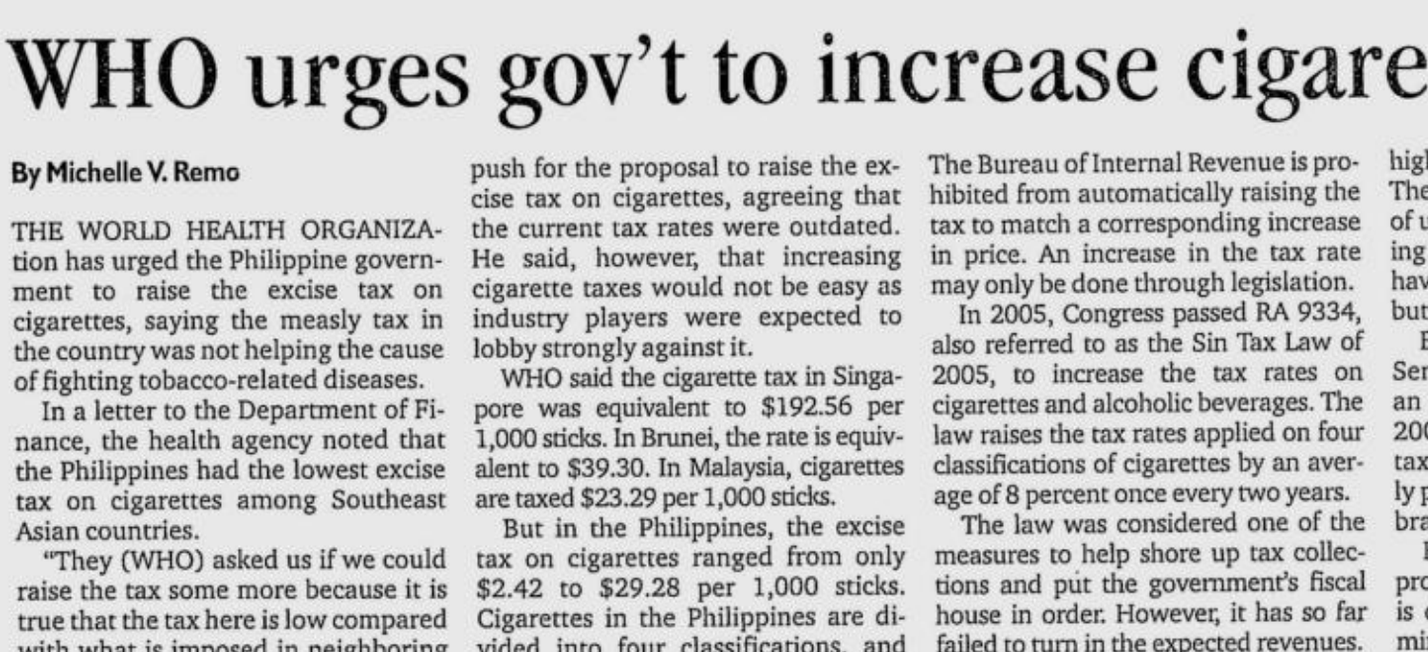
In 2005, Congress passed RA 9334, also referred to as the Sin Tax Law of 2005, to increase the tax rates on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. The law raises the tax rates applied on four classifications of cigarettes by an average of 8 percent once every two years.

The law was considered one of the measures to help shore up tax collections and put the government's fiscal house in order. However, it has so far failed to turn in the expected revenues.

The DOF said the law did not incorporate a provision that would automatically place a cigarette brand into a higher tax bracket if its price increased. The law likewise did not allow the use of updated 2005 prices as basis for taxing "old" cigarette brands (or those that have been in the market prior to 1997), but instead used 1997 prices.

Earlier, the DOF submitted to the Senate a position paper pushing for an amendment to the Sin Tax Law of 2005. The DOF said an ideal way of taxing cigarettes was to automatically put a cigarette brand in a higher tax bracket if its price increased.

Excise tax is supposed to be levied on products whose excessive consumption is discouraged. But the DOF said the minimal increase in cigarette taxes did not fulfill that objective, neither did it achieve the other purpose of substantially boosting government revenues.



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November 18: 10:30 a.m. - 5:00p.m.

LIST OF SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS
November 15, Thursday
Seminar Rm 1 (1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.)
1. Current Status of Mining and Mineral Exploration Activities in the Philippines by Glenn Noble, Division Chief, Mineral Economic & Information Division
2. Social Responsibility in Mining by Dir. FS Mon Monteros, Professor of Social Philosophy, Bukidnon State University
3. Aggregates Mining and Development by Romeo B. Molano, General Manager, Vulcan Materials Corp.
4. Uranium Potential of the Philippines by Aloysius Diaz, EVP / COO Trans Asia Minerals Corp.
5. Presentation on New Mining Operating Equipment by Mattross Vass SouthEast Asia, Pete Trading
Seminar Rm 2: Presentation by SANDVIK TAMROCK
November 16, Friday
Seminar Rm 2
1:00 - 1:45p.m. Redefining CAD with Functional Design: From 2D to 3D by CIM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
2:00 - 2:45p.m. SHIMADZU: Mineral Assaying Seminar Using AAS/ICPS/XRF by SHIMADZU PHILS. CORP.
3:00 - 3:45p.m. How to Choose a Good Quality Tile by MARIWASA SIAM CERAMICS, INC.
4:00 - 4:45p.m. Acoustics by EAGLE SHIELD ENTERPRISES
November 17, Saturday
Seminar Rm 2
11:00 - 11:45a.m. Aeroquip Hoses by MESCO, INC.
1:00 - 1:45p.m. Product Presentation of Destiny Products & Features by PARADISE CHEMICAL CORP.
2:00 - 2:45p.m. Intercom Systems & Fingerprint Security Systems by AVESCO MARKETING CORP.
3:00 - 3:45p.m. How To Make Concrete Stamping System by GT STONE WORKS
4:00 - 5:45p.m. Presentation by FW NICOL
November 18, Sunday
Seminar Rm 2
11:00 - 11:45a.m. Presentation by INFRATEX / PGI
1:00 - 1:45p.m. Intercom Systems & Fingerprint Security Systems by AVESCO MARKETING CORP.
2:00 - 2:45p.m. Presentation by CIGI
3:00 - 3:45p.m. Presentation by STONE AGE
4:00 - 4:45p.m. Presentation by ALUFORM
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On fearless forecasts

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

WHEN ECONOMIC ANALYSTS MADE their 2007 projections about Philippine economic performance late last year or early this year, three things were not quite anticipated enough in formulating their projections or forecasts.

One, most had assumed that the foreign exchange rate would average near P50 to the dollar. The government had assumed it to be in the range P51-53 in drawing up the 2007 budget that was approved by Congress. Two, crude oil prices had been expected to be softer, following earlier episodes of above $70-a-barrel prices that had provoked near-double digit inflation in 2005. The government's assumption was around $63-67 a barrel. And three, world economic growth—especially in the US, the world's biggest economy and a dominant trading partner to most countries—was expected to moderate somewhat, but not differ substantially from the 2006 performance.

Way off

As we approach the end of the year, we see that things haven't quite turned out as expected. In fact, those earlier assumptions proved to be way off. The exchange rate has just breached P43 to the dollar, and the end to the dollar's depreciation—and therefore the peso's appreciation trend—is nowhere in sight. Crude oil has hit $98 a barrel, and is widely expected to breach $100 shortly. And US Federal Reserve Bank Chair Ben Bernanke has just testified before the US Senate last week that the US economy can be expected to slow down more than earlier expected. What happened?

These major deviations from earlier assumptions, which one cannot deny to be essentially projections or best-guess forecasts in themselves, reinforce my constant assertion that we economists should be humble enough to admit that we don't have all the answers. Much of what influences the performance of the economy lies beyond what economic theories can explain, or what econometric models can measure and account for.

Way out

I found myself recently telling a small audience not to rely too heavily on so-called experts' economic forecasts (including mine!). Let's face it: the track record, in general, hasn't particularly been sterling. My own casual observation tells me that through time, economic forecasts—even those based on the best economic minds or most sophisticated econometric models—have seen more misses than hits.

Of course, we economists can always explain our way out of forecasts or targets that do not get realized. We would always rationalize that this or that assumption behind the forecast did not materialize. We could then point out that determining the exact nature of those assumptions lies beyond our own competence, because they are influenced either by politics, social dynamics, or acts of God.

The other convenient way out is to revise the forecasts and targets as we go along and get nearer the forecast or target date. Neda does it all the time; so do the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and other institutions engaged in the business of making economic projections. And this is inevitable. It would be silly to insist on maintaining a forecast if along the way, actual trends have already deviated substantially from the originally expected path. In the end, of course, this means that the revised forecasts would be closer to if not hit the actual outcomes, and the analysts manage to maintain credibility.

What happened

Let me return to the question: What happened? In the case of the exchange rate, the dollar turned out to slide more steeply than had earlier been anticipated. For the most part, it has lately been influenced by the US subprime housing loans crisis that hardly anybody anticipated (although there were some isolated voices warning of the problem even early on, and who are now able to say "I told you so"). Major central banks are also turning away from the dollar as a reserve asset, and unloading large amounts of it (China has reportedly done so recently). For us, it is also because the surge in OFW remittances continues to surprise, especially in the face of the apparent slowdown in the numbers of workers actually deployed overseas.

Surging crude oil prices are attributed to declining US petroleum product inventories, anticipated supply disruptions due to recent bombings in oil-rich Afghanistan and an oil pipeline in Yemen, continuously surging demands from rapidly growing Asian economies, and the continued weakening of the dollar. Meanwhile, the impacts of the subprime crisis on the real US economy are just unfolding, and most authoritative analyses as exemplified by that of Bernanke point to a short-term outlook that does not look good.

Way ahead

What does the way ahead look like? Dare I answer this question, after all that I've said above? The annual meeting of the Philippine Economic Society will have its usual session on alternative "fearless forecasts" (including mine) on Friday morning at the BSP auditorium. You may wish to come and listen, even if only for its entertainment value. In any case, if you do come and listen, it is not so much the forecasts you ought to watch out closely for. Watch out, rather, for the assumptions behind them.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Gov't spending . . .

From page B1

ment," the report said.

While uncertainty over the US economic outlook was likely to linger through 2008, Nomura said further deterioration of Philippine exports could be averted based on a likely recovery in global semiconductor demand through the first half of 2008 and the continued strength in the Chinese economy.

The brokerage firm cited the draft national budget for 2008 that allowed a 20.7-percent increase in the allotment for capital spending, including infrastructure investment.

But while the sale of government assets planned for the next two years would likely boost short-term revenues, Nomura said these would not be able to bring sustained benefits unless more assets would be privatized.

"Thus, to achieve a balanced budget (in 2008) and increase infrastructure investment in the 2009 budget, we think further revenue-building policies are needed," it said.

Nomura said it also expected stable remittances from overseas Filipino workers. These inflows have led to a sharp peso appreciation this year.

"We (see) further peso appreciation, buoyed by OFW remittances and funds flowing into local equities," Nomura said.

The Japanese financial institution also sees scope for further monetary easing by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas given the low level of domestic inflation, slowing growth in money supply and the growing risk of an export slump.

It expects the country's inflation rate to stay well within government targets, projecting inflation at 2.9 percent this year but picking up to 3.6 percent next year and 3.5 percent in 2009.

Aside from the expected economic slump in the US, the top market for the country's exports, Nomura sees higher crude oil prices as a risk factor through 2008.

Based on its GDP growth outlook, Nomura sees the Philippines outperforming the 5.8-percent average forecast for Southeast Asia's four biggest economies this year. The forecast growth for 2007 was higher than the 6.3-percent growth outlook for Indonesia, 6 percent for Malaysia and 4.4 percent for Thailand.

For next year, however, Indonesia was expected to be the best performing with a growth rate of 6.4 percent against the region's average of 5.9 percent.

The Philippines was again seen to become the top performer among Asean in 2009 when the regional average was forecast at 5.4 percent.

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Cebu Pacific eyes 'Airport City'

By Riza T. Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC IS lining up to invest in the commercial complex or "airport city" being planned for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) officials told the INQUIRER.

DOTC line agency Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), which runs the Naia, is planning to convert terminal 1 into a commercial complex when terminal 3 opens.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER that the agency and Cebu Pacific were having exploratory talks for expanding the area devoted to commercial establishments in Naia-1.

Miaa earlier said it was talking to two possible investors but Mendoza said he was not aware of any other investor in active discussions about the airport city at this time.

"Anyway, the talks with Cebu Pacific are still in the early stages. There may be more prospective investors," Mendoza said.

Earlier, Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi told reporters that an initial study conducted by his agency found out that the terminals' economic potential could be maximized by turning Naia-1 into an "airport city" and then dedicating Naia-2 to domestic flights and Naia-3 to international services. The Manila Domestic Airport can then be used for general aviation.

Cusi said the plan would also put the airport complex at par with those of other countries in Asia, such as Japan and South Korea, especially if the three terminals could be connected by rail.

But Miaa is taking its time to carefully finalize the details for the funding and the possible investors for the "airport city" project since Naia-3's opening has been postponed many times because of legal battles.

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DOE tightens rules on service contract applicants

Focus on financial, technical capabilities

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH THE GLOBAL SCRAMBLE to find new oil and gas fields, the Department of Energy has committed to impose stricter requirements on service contract applicants, to ensure that they will complete their exploration programs.

"The (applicants) will have a formal presentation on their capabilities—their financial and technical ability to comply with the imposed program of work. This presentation will be open to the public and to the media," Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

Earlier this year, the DOE issued Department Circular No. 2007-04-0003, which laid down specific guidelines governing the transfer of participating interest, rights and obligations in petroleum service contracts.

With the circular, the DOE hoped to ensure the transparency of the procedures for the transfer of participating interests, rights and obligations in petroleum service contracts. The circular's provisions, according to the DOE, are in line with existing government policies.

Assignees or transferees should not only have the financial muscle to undertake capital-intensive activities such as exploration and development of petroleum blocks, but should also possess the technical expertise and experience that such activities required.

They should also be legally qualified to enter into petroleum service contracts, the circular said.

In terms of financial capabilities, a prospective transferee should have available financial resources, including capital, credit facilities and guarantees to undertake its obligation under the service contract.

On the technical side, the prospective transferee should have officers and employees with enough technical and industrial qualifications, including eligibilities and work-related experiences. It should also have the technical and industrial resources for the exploration, development and production of petroleum resources.

Under the circular, no transfer of petroleum service contract rights or obligations could take place without prior approval of the DOE.

In the case of a rights and obligations transfer to an affiliate of a qualified contract holder, the affiliate should have the same level of financial, legal and technical qualifications as the "transferor" or "assignor."

The affiliate relationship should also be maintained during the life of the service contract, the DOE circular said.

The circular also sought to prevent service contractors from assigning their rights and obligations immediately after the execution of the service contract.

NOKIA Philippines senior vice president for corporate responsibility Martin Sandelin shows the features of his mobile phone to Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, and Education Secretary Jesli Lapus at the relaunch of the Text2Teach program, which aims to promote technology-aided education. T2T is a project of Globe Telecom, Ayala Foundation, Nokia and Seameo-Innotech. RYAN LIM

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First Gen to award $30-M contract in early 2008

LISTED FIRM FIRST GEN CORP. WILL award by early next year a $30-million contract for the expansion of its 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plants in Nueva Ecija.

This will raise the plants' capacity by 17 megawatts.

First Gen vice chair and chief executive Peter Garrucho said the company was now in "final negotiations" with a vendor that would provide the materials and services for the construction of the expansion unit.

The awarding of the contract, he said, should take place by early 2008.

"We had to conduct a thorough review of the project since upgrades are difficult to execute. We need to find out the quality of equipment to be used. But we already have a potential vendor in mind and we're now in the final stage of negotiations," he told reporters.

He said the planned upgrade would make the Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower complex 5 percent more efficient, which meant that 5 percent less water would be used to generate a kilowatt of power.

"This will enable us to use our water resource more efficiently. Pantabangan-Masiway has the largest water reservoir (among hydropower plants) at 3 billion cubic meters. We'll have the ability to do more things with the upgrade and expansion," he said.

Following the government's turnover of the Pantabangan-Masiway plant package to First Gen subsidiary First Gen Hydro Power Corp. late last year, the company announced it would expand the plants' capacity by 109 MW.

Garrucho said in an earlier interview that if things went well with the upgrade, the company would undertake an $80-million expansion project that would add another 65-MW unit to the Pantabangan plant and another 13-MW unit to the Masiway facility.

These new units should come on stream by mid-2010. *Abigail L. Ho*

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Corruption . . .

From page B1

compared to its global peers, the survey results showed.

The Philippines also ranked 101st in the overall quality of its infrastructure. It ranked 104th in terms of installed telephone lines, 102nd in terms of the quality of port infrastructure and 82nd in the quality of air transport infrastructure.

Surprisingly, however, the country rated highly in terms of available seat kilometers on its air transport network, at 30th worldwide. This aspect was the only infrastructure metric where the country held a global competitive advantage, according to the survey.

"Just imagine how much better our ranking could be in this field if we had an open skies policy," Mundo said.

The MBC official lamented, however, that it has become fashionable to hype the country's shortcomings while completely overlooking the positive aspects, several of which were highlighted in the competitiveness rankings.

"We are moving forward," he said. "It's just that in some important aspects, other countries are moving forward faster." *(To be concluded)*

Cautious trading seen

From page B1

Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke had said that he expected the US economy to slow noticeably in the fourth quarter.

"Bernanke gave no indication as to whether there were anymore rate cuts planned by the Fed. He cautioned about a slowing economy in 2008 as the US housing sector continued to slump," Yeung noted.

"Should oil prices continue to rise and the dollar continue to weaken then it would mean more trouble for the US. The Philippine market is likely to follow the US bourse. Further declines in the Dow will drag down the PSEi," Yeung said.

He noted that investors would look at policy moves by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas instead for possible good news. The Bangko Sentral's policy-making Monetary Board is set to meet on Nov. 15 to decide whether or not to further cut key interest rates.

"A rate cut may serve as a positive catalyst as it did last Oct. 4. Not a few are expecting a quarter-point cut as inflation levels continued to be benign," Yeung said. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

SMC firms up . . .

From page B1

PNOC-EDC auction.

Prequalified entities have until Nov. 21 to submit their bids for the PNOC-EDC shares. The notice of award will be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with payment of the full bid price by Nov. 30, the closing date of the transaction.

Avenue Asia is an active buyer of Asian bank debt and was the biggest holder of debt paper of Benpres Holdings Corp. and Citra Metro Manila Tollway Corp. at one point, San Miguel sources said.

According to Philippine National Construction Corp., one of Citra's owners is Avenue Asia Special Situations Funds III, an investment adviser within New York-based asset managing firm Avenue Capital Group.

As of Sept. 30, Avenue Capital Group's assets under management allocated to its Avenue Asia strategy were about $4.3 billion.

The strategy generally targets Asia's distressed debt, restructured debt, and viable companies generating positive cash flow. New York-based Avenue Capital Group, formed in 1995, focuses on distressed and undervalued credit-related securities (both public and private), bank loans, trade claims and private investments (debt and equities).

San Miguel is boosting its war chest for its foray into new businesses such as power by an additional P124 billion ($2.9 billion) from the proposed sale of its Australian businesses—particularly in dairy products, juice and beer—to Japanese partner Kirin Holdings Co. Ltd. and Lion Nathan Ltd., a 46-percent owned firm of Kirin.

San Miguel announced last week it was selling all of its holdings in Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. to Kirin for $2.6 billion (A$2.8 billion). Kirin owns 19.9 percent in San Miguel.

San Miguel has also signed a definitive agreement to sell its premium Tasmanian brewer J. Boag & Son to listed Australian spirits maker Lion Nathan for roughly $300 million (A$325 million).

Private sector, government push key judicial reforms

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVernment have joined forces to institute judicial reforms seen averting billions of pesos in economic losses every year.

Miguel B. Varela, the National Competitiveness Council's champion for special concerns, said the reforms were meant to address the loss of P7 billion to P13 billion every year attributed to the "poor performance" of the judicial system.

"The wheels of justice turns slowly even on lawsuits related to business and economic issues and this has been putting upward pressure on the cost of doing business," Varela said.

"Such situation is one of the factors that discourage foreign investors from putting their money into the country," the lawyer said.

Ongoing steps include the mainstreaming of arbitration as a means of quickly settling businesses-related issues along with the implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Law.

"This is being given a boost with the establishment of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, which is PCCI's arbitration arm," Varela said.

"Another step is the revision of some provisions of Rule 65 of the Rules of Court, to provide a remedy to any aggrieved litigant when courts or tribunals acted with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction," he added.

These changes, he said, were being initiated through the US Agency for International Development's Rule of Law Effectiveness project.

Varela said the negative effect on business of the judicial system's performance had been cited in various studies as a disincentive to doing business in the Philippines.

Varela said further that the NCC, a partnership between the government and businesses, has listed judicial reforms among the key issues that needed to be resolved.

Varela, who is also chair emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said this showed a deep appreciation of the role that the judiciary could play in helping improve the country's competitiveness as well as council's role in helping improve the business function of the judiciary.

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Money supply growing below cap

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas sees money supply in October growing below the 20-percent cap, boosting expectations of another cut in benchmark interest rates this week.

"Monetary operations have been effective and successful and we're keeping the growth in monetary aggregates for October at below 20 percent," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said Friday.

A money supply growth above 20 percent is expected to drive up prices of basic commodities as more money chases after the same goods and services.

Based on the latest BSP report, growth in broad money supply has further slowed down to 11.4 percent year-on-year in September from 14.9 percent in August.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy.

This includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

It is one of the indicators closely monitored by the inflation-targeting BSP in its monetary setting.

With the growth in domestic liquidity on track with targets, there is a growing market consensus that the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board has room to cut its benchmark interest rates.

Some large financial institutions have bet on another 25 basis-point reduction during the policy rate setting this week.

The BSP slashed its overnight rates for the second time this year in October to 5.75 percent for the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 7.75 percent for the overnight lending or repurchase rate.

The central bank has mopped up excess liquidity more effectively since May when it transformed its high-yielding special deposit accounts (SDAs) into a more powerful monetary tool.

It now relies more on SDAs than its overnight borrowings to mop up excess money.

Based on the latest data as of Oct. 11, the BSP has locked up about P482 billion in excess liquidity using the SDAs versus some P210 billion using its traditional overnight borrowings.

Before the BSP made the SDA more attractive, placements in this facility amounted to only P54 billion while the amount siphoned off using the overnight borrowings was much larger at P341 billion.

The shift was dramatic since May when the rules on SDAs were amended.

Under the new rules, even banks' trust departments and nonbank state corporations can place funds with the SDAs and earn attractive interest rates.

The central bank has likewise made these instruments eligible as compliance to banks' 50 percent liquidity floor or the portion of deposits and deposit substitutes required to be held as a buffer during bad times.

As a result, SDA placements widened to P280 billion in June and P365 billion in July before breaching the P400-billion mark in August.

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BPI's Equity Fund allows investors to enjoy gains from local bourse

Philippine stocks closed higher by 0.31% last Friday to end at 3,703.66. Analysts remain bullish about the stock market with the index expected to reach the 4,200 to 4,500 mark in the next twelve months.

This is good news for those invested directly in equities or equity funds. Equity funds provide the highest potential returns for those who are willing to absorb losses or those who are able to stand out large market swings. They are definitely not for the weak hearted but they present you the best option for capital growth.

Equity Funds are best for those who want to enter the stock market but do not have a lot of money to start with to achieve wide diversification. This is why these funds are currently very popular among aggressive investors. Among the equity funds available in the market today is the BPI Equity Fund.

As of 9 November 2007, BPI Equity Fund posted a year-to-date (YTD) net absolute return of 24.06%. It is invested primarily in listed stocks at the Philippine Stock Exchange. As an actively-managed fund, it employs active investment strategies such as stock picking, market timing and asset allocation decisions. Thus, an investor in the Fund need not worry about when to enter and leave the stock market since the managers of the fund take care of this. Investors are, however, advised to maintain a long-term investment horizon in order to maximize the earnings potential of his investment.

Before an investor can actually invest in BPI Equity Fund or any other BPI Investment Fund, he is made to undergo a Client Suitability Test (CST). The objective of this process is to be able to recommend the right BPI Investment Fund suited to the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, preferences and experience. The decision to invest based on the recommendation is still for the client to make. The certified UITF Marketing Personnel is expected, however, to effectively and sufficiently communicate why the specific product is considered to be in the best interest of the client at the time the recommendation is given.

Fruit exports seen rising in '07

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture expects an increase in fruit exports this year due to recent breakthroughs in meeting global phytosanitary requirements.

Last year, fruit exports amounted to more than $700 million.

In a recent gathering of fruit growers, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said these breakthroughs include the accreditation of four establishments in Manila, which will provide extended hot water dip treatment services for mangoes bound for China.

The DA is also stepping up efforts to meet stringent phytosanitary requirements to enable the entry of mangoes from Davao del Sur and Luzon to major markets such as the United States and Australia.

A series of extensive field surveys and studies, funded by the US Department of Agriculture and Australia, are also being conducted nationwide.

Through the BPI, the DA is conducting a survey in 16 mango-producing provinces in the Visayas, which will be completed next year.

A similar survey was also done in Sarangani.

After Visayas, the USDA survey will cover 27 other provinces in Mindanao.

"All of these efforts are expected to further boost our mango exports, which last year amounted to more than $46 million, of which $24 million was in the form of fresh mangoes," Yap said.

Yap added that the DA will "continue to pursue initiatives and provide technical and logistics assistance to enable our fruit growers, processors and exporters to comply with global phytosanitary standards, and thus tap huge export potentials."

According to Yap, these include support services for small farmers such as the distribution of virus-free planting materials, credit, post-harvest and marketing assistance and the construction of packing houses.

Other services include the participation in international trade missions and food exhibitions; improving transport of farm goods; and tapping *bagsakan* centers and barangay food terminals to help fruit growers sell their produce.

For bananas, the GMA-HVCC Program is targeting a 7.99-percent growth to 7.345 million metric tons in 2007, from last year's production of 6.801 million MT.

Mango production, on the other hand, is projected to grow 7.10 percent this year to 984,135 MT from 918,877 MT in 2006.

For pineapples, the DA is projecting production to reach 1.925 million MT in 2007, up by 5 percent from 1.834 million MT in 2006.

RP seeks help in battling coco pest

THE PHILIPPINES HAS sought the help of the world's top coconut producers in winning the war against the pest that has threatened the future of coconut trade and production.

At the 44th session of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, the DA stressed that the world's coconut producers should pursue joint efforts to wipe out the coconut leaf beetle or *Brontispa longissima gestro*.

The beetle "scorches" the coconut leaves and prevents the tree from bearing fruit.

"We are here for the benefit of our stakeholders, most especially the millions of small farmers and their families who depend on coconut farming," Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Emmanuel Paras said during the forum.

Paras told APCC members that the country "will value your assistance, so we could effectively wipe out brontispa from inflicting damage in the whole Asia-Pacific region."

Next to Indonesia, the Philippines is the world's second largest producer of coconut products, with annual domestic trade and production valued at $800 million.

Amy R. Remo

A Grand New Beginning

From its illustrious past, the Hyundai Starex forwards to another legacy anew as it ushers in the newest member of Hyundai's Innovations for Humanity—the all-new Grand Starex.

As the fourth descendant of Hyundai's flagship passenger van, the Grand Starex boasts of a new world of refinements definitive of its DNA as a premium people-mover in its class. Imposing with its new muscular front fascia, the Grand Starex immediately draws your attention to Hyundai's dynamic emblem, signifying the vehicle's cutting-edge heritage. Its massive appeal continues as you step inside its 12-seater spacious cocoon; with a totally redesigned seating orientation, the sliding and reclining chairs allow you to change seating positions with ease while the sliding tip-up fold feature allows you to seat solo or move from row to row. An elegant cockpit enhanced with clearer, well-designed instrumentation panels lets you navigate your chosen journey in tasteful resolve, while the plush interiors imprint the very essence of divine sophistication. Dual sliding doors help you slip in and out of the van in a breeze; while the flush side glass lets you enjoy the scenery in style, while providing safety and convenience without having to open the sliding doors. Under the hood of the Grand Starex is the CRDi VGT or Variable Geometry Turbocharger diesel engine that harnesses the engine's full power and provides a smooth, stable drive as conditions demand, yet evenly distributes fuel for exceptional fuel savings and cleaner emission quality. Generous safety features such as Anti-lock Braking System, dual front airbags, standard seat belts with pretensioners, and back warning system among others, afford you total peace of mind as you journey around or out of town with the Grand Starex.

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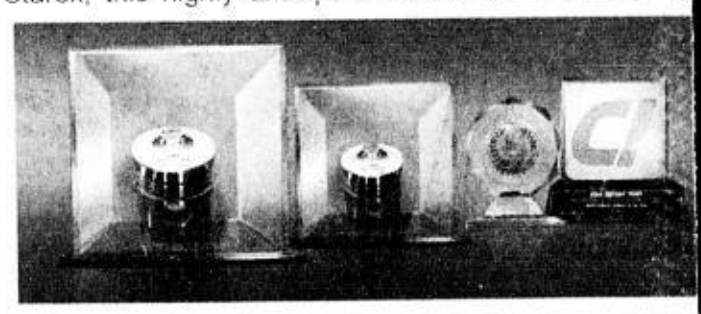

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BSP forex buying tops $800M

By Doris C. Dumlao

Bid to slow down peso climb

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS' net buying of dollars to slow down the peso's appreciation intensified in October following a steep interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve and the onset of the strong season for overseas remittances.

BSP documents showed that the central bank's net purchases of foreign exchange from the open market topped $800 million from Oct. 1-23, up from about $600 million in September.

The US Fed slashed its benchmark interest rate by a sharper-than-expected 50 basis points in mid-September, driving more global investors to seek higher-yielding assets from emerging markets like the Philippines.

The Philippines has also been receiving at least $1 billion in monthly foreign inflows from overseas Filipino workers. These remittances historically peak in the fourth quarter because of the Christmas season, the country's longest and most extravagant holiday.

Aside from the OFW inflows, net inflows of foreign portfolio investments—or those placed in local stocks, bonds and money market instruments—have returned to positive levels in September.

From a net outflow of $246.18 million in August at the height of the global financial volatility triggered by the US property downturn, the Philippines generated $35.78 million in net foreign portfolio inflows in September. For the period Oct. 1-26, the net portfolio inflows surged further to $255 million.

These strong portfolio inflows, which peaked this year at $1.1 billion in July, have driven up the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index to record highs this year.

As the BSP resumed heavy purchases of dollars in September, its outstanding foreign currency swaps increased to $6.35 billion after falling to $5.2 billion in August at the height of the global risk aversion caused by the US credit crunch. However, the level was still below the all-time high of $10 billion posted in May.

Since last year, swaps have become a major tool used by the BSP to mop up excess foreign exchange purchased from the Philippine Dealing System. The central bank sporadically intervenes at the foreign exchange market to temper volatility and cushion the harsh impact of a rising peso on exporters and households relying on overseas remittances.

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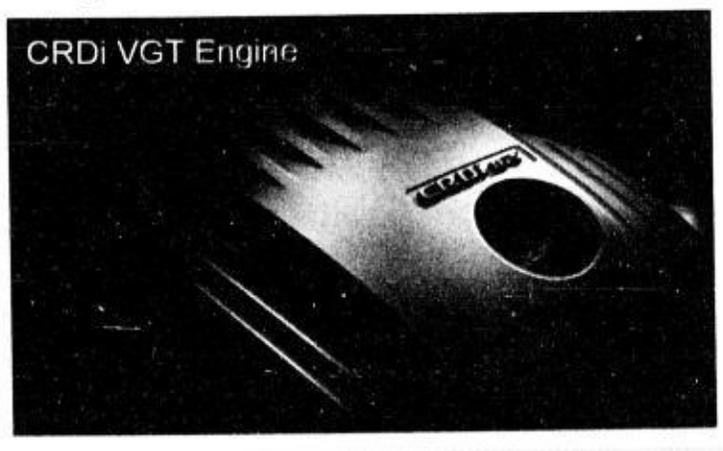

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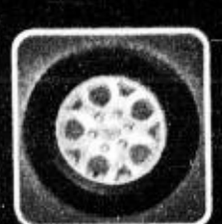
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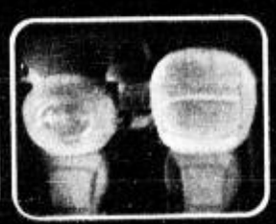
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Viva Com hopes to raise ₱1.85B in maiden offer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

MOVIE PRODUCER AND ENTERtainment content giant Viva Communications Inc. (Viva Com) aims to generate up to P1.85 billion in fresh capital from its planned initial public offer of new and existing shares, its underwriter said.

The fresh funds will allow Viva Com to acquire new technology to meet growing demand for content in various formats.

BDO Capital & Investment Corp. president Eduardo Francisco said Viva is offering a total of 142.9 million shares at between P9.72 and P12.93 apiece. This could raise between P1.39 to P1.85 billion in gross proceeds.

Of the total offer, approximately 92.86 million will comprise primary or new shares that could rise up to P1.2 billion for the company at the maximum price range proposed.

Roughly 35 percent of the company will be sold to the public through the primary offer.

The secondary offering, or shares to be sold by existing shareholders, will consist of 49.99 million shares, which could raise P646 million for the selling shareholders.

Apart from repaying its debt, Viva Com will use the proceeds to fuel expansion, such as programming for additional cable channels, acquisition of films and production, and conversion of the company's film library into digital format, Francisco said.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. was tasked to underwrite or manage the public offer. The company has also tapped ONL Consultants Inc. as financial adviser.

Viva Com was established in 1981, consolidating the Viva Group of Companies' dominant position as provider of entertainment content for Filipino audiences in various media all over the world.

Viva Com is composed of film production arm Viva Productions Inc., talent development and management company Viva Artists' Agency and home video distributor Viva Video Inc.

Viva Com produces motion pictures, licenses archived film material, manages artists and distributes home video products in DVD (digital versatile disc) and VCD (video compact disc) forms.

It is also owns the largest library of Filipino films, with almost 2,000 films and television clips. The company has a presence in all aspects of the content distribution chain, releasing material through theatres, free TV, domestic and foreign pay TV, live productions and new media outlets, such as mobile phone television and SMS or MMS.

Entertainment content can now also be viewed on-line via the Internet.

It is estimated that nontheatrical revenues now account for at least 15 percent of the total generated by a single film, industry sources said.

Demand for Filipino content has expanded beyond local shores.

In 2006, about two percent of Viva Com's licensing revenues were from international sales.

This figure is expected to grow as subscriptions to Viva Com's Filipino movie channel, Pinoy Box Office, increase in areas where the channel is currently available, such as Europe, Japan, the Middle East and the United States, and as the channel's reach expands beyond these countries.

The Viva Group is led by its chair and chief executive officer Vic Del Rosario Jr., who co-founded Vicor Music Corp. when he was 19 years old.

eTelecare eyes different form of listing

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NASDAQ-LISTED CONTACT center firm eTelecare Global Solutions announced over the weekend that it intends to list by way of introduction on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Nov. 20.

In a statement, eTelecare said that it does not intend to raise capital when it lists on the PSE. The move will only allow shareholders to trade their common shares on the local bourse.

Listing by way of introduction does not require a firm to sell shares to the public.

The Quezon City-based company said listing on the PSE would remove certain Philippine regulatory requirements that made it more difficult for common shareholders to convert their shares into American Depository Shares.

ADS represents equity in a firm that was incorporated outside the United States which, when collectively represented in an American Depository Receipt issued by a US bank, could be traded on American exchanges just like an American stock.

"Although (eTelecare) common shareholders always were able to convert their common shares to ADS, which they subsequently trade on the Nasdaq Global Market, listing on the PSE would make this conversion easier," the firm explained.

The firm operates 13 contact centers here and in the United States. Six such facilities may be found in Mandaluyong, Makati, Quezon City, Muntinlupa and Cebu.

The firm has at least 10,000 employees in both sides of the Pacific—some 80 percent of which is based in the Philippines.

Last week, eTelecare reported that its revenues went up by 25 percent in the third quarter, driven by a 64-percent increase in earnings from its Philippine operations.

Pearl Asian beefs up ranks of miners

PEARL ASIAN MINing Industries Inc. has announced that it will beef up its corps of professionals in the field as it starts gearing up its Gango gold mill in Bukidnon for round-the-clock operations.

Company chief executive Jason Piamonte said in a statement that the firm had begun a 30-day test run of the gold mill plant on Oct. 27.

Piamonte added that the Cagayan de Oro-based firm had taken on members of the local Orogapco small miners cooperative's Minahang Bayan to rehabilitate and recondition the remaining 14 gold tunnels at the Gango Gold Rush Project.

"With the trial run going well, we are also extremely enthusiastic about the mineral characterization in the Wellbrook Tunnel #1," he said.

The CEO added that there has been indications of rich gold mineralization along the deeper parts of the 675-foot deep tunnel.

"We now look to increasing our ore stockpiles so as to permit the Gango plant to operate 24/7," he said.

Piamonte added that Pearl Asian is in the process of hiring additional technical staff, including mining engineers, geologists, chemical and civil engineers, in order to increase production at both the Gango Gold Rush and the company's XYZ Gold Project.

"With gold at a high of $835.20 an ounce (as of Nov. 9), there is no time like the present to put operations into high gear," Piamonte said.

Earlier, Pearl Asian said it expected the Gango project to yield some P28.5 million worth of gold.

Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 11, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS							
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc..	59	59	58.5	58.5	809,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66.5	67.5	66.5	67	1,010,000
748	540	China Banking Corp.	700	700	680	690	1,770
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	530,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	59	60	59	59	2,639,100
65.5	37	Philippine National Bank	45	46	45	45.5	516,800
68	43	Philippine Savings Bank	61	61	61	61	2,800
39.57	18.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	344,100
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	75.5	75.5	75	75	426,100
66	46.48	Union Bank of the Philippines	48	48.5	47	47	148,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS							
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.2	4.4	4	4.4	1,070,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc..	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.02	1,583,000
16.25	4.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc..	13.25	13.75	13	13.25	403,400
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc..	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	1,196,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.1	3.25	3.1	3.1	4,989,000
3.1	1.3	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc..	1.4	1.82	1.4	1.82	7,779,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,215.00	1,215.00	10,000
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc..	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	20
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	168,000
ELECTRICITY,ENERGY,POWER & WATER							
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	4,517,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60.5	61	60.5	61	619,000
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	82	82.5	80	80	1,055,000
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc..	17	17.25	16.75	17.25	719,200
105.45	24.09	Manila Electric Co.	80	81	80	80	300,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.2	6.9	7.2	39,089,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.6	2,188,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc..	7.6	7.8	7.5	7.5	21,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	15,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.88	1.88	1.86	1.86	1,568,000
FOOD,BEVERAGE&TOBACCO							
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5	5.2	5	5.2	7,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc..	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.86	127,000
2.4	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	11,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	49	49.5	48.5	48.5	188,800
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	90,000
3.7	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	330,000
80	54.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	55.5	56.5	54.5	56	394,500
88	57	San Miguel Corp. "B"	58	59	58	58.5	753,500
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	5,611,100
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	460,000
CONSTRUCTION,INFRASTRUCTURE&ALLIED SERVICES							
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	1,877,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc..	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	4,492,000
7	2.95	Republic Cement Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	150,000
2	0.57	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.08	3,081,000
CHEMICALS							
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.5	4.65	4.5	4.6	390,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	4,060,000
HOLDING FIRMS							
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.35	271,000
0.185	0.049	AJO.net Holdings Inc..	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.155	66,530,000
1.28	0.24	APC Group Inc..	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.68	1,450,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc.. "A"	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	273,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc.. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc..	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.8	711,000
0.021	0.008	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	30,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc..	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	4,147,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.36	2.4	2.36	2.38	633,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc..	3.25	4.7	3.25	4.25	209,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	590	590	580	590	277,780
5.8	1.5	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	2,998,000
12	4.7	DMCI Holdings Inc .	11.25	11.75	11	11.25	2,862,700
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc..	4	4.2	4	4.2	7,000
8	2.7	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.8	106,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc..	11	11.5	11	11.5	15,100
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	1,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.2	2,088,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	38,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc.. "A"	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.205	74,060,000
0.75	0.185	Prime Orion Philippines Inc..	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,480,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	372.5	375	372.5	372.5	310,280
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	41,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	3,480,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc..	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	51,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,510,000
PROPERTY							
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	265,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	24,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc..	16	16.25	15.75	16	4,491,900
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1,610,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc..	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.95	16,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc..	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	2,310,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	610,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc..	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.77	2,930,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	3,110,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc..	0.99	1.02	0.99	1	12,860,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc..	1.72	1.76	1.72	1.72	24,588,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc..	0.56	0.59	0.56	0.59	310,000
4.6	1.85	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.1	24,759,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	650,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	220,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2,890,000
9.2	1.32	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4	4.95	4	4.95	60,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	19.75	20	19.5	19.75	1,945,600
5.9	1.73	SM Development Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	5,720,000
13.5	7.52	SM Prime Holdings Inc..	11.25	11.25	11	11	6,520,000
3.25	1.4	Shang Properties Inc..	2.2	2.24	2.2	2.24	6,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc..	2.6	2.65	2.38	2.44	3,576,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc..	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	110,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc..	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	3,230,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.8	4.8	1,093,000
MEDIA							
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	34	33	34	94,000
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.2	1,554,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	630,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc..	1,690.00	1,695.00	1,685.00	1,690.00	25,420
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,980.00	3,000.00	2,980.00	2,995.00	168,410
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.3	223,000
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc..	9	9.4	8.9	9.4	2,032,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.6	977,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.041	36,100,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information and Technology Inc..	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	11,870,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	54,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc..	0.055	0.055	0.05	0.0525	60,000,000
5.8	1.34	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	3.05	3.05	2.95	3	1,255,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES							
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc	4	4	4	4	10,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc..	40.5	41	40	40.5	3,600,400
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	7,000
HOTEL & LEISURE							
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	265,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc..	0.82	0.83	0.8	0.82	2,910,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	240,000
EDUCATION							
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc	805	850	805	850	1,270
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	30,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES							
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	236,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	561,000
30	8.9	Paxys Inc	9.1	9.2	9	9.1	648,000
MINING							
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	195,600,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "A"	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.6	2,048,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "B"	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	3,255,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.5	2,084,800
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	12,000
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc..	12.75	12.75	11.5	11.75	3,443,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc..	2.34	2.4	2.3	2.3	40,977,000
0.47	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.4	0.47	0.39	0.4	897,230,000
0.5	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.42	0.5	0.42	0.44	321,010,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.029	0.028	0.029	1,464,600,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.034	0.032	0.032	297,100,000
30	2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc..	25	25.5	24.75	24.75	2,681,100
0.021	0.0068	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	69,100,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.75	11.25	10.5	11.25	20,068,400
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	46.5	49	46.5	48	719,500
1.36	0.47	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.83	0.84	0.83	0.84	530,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	331,000
OIL							
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,530,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	122,800,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	32,000,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	37,400
0.032	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	179,200,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	931.18 DOWN	5.25	23,838,190	410,246,830.00
Industrial	4,531.63 DOWN	8.28	72,114,700	687,251,955.00
Holding Firms	2,139.12 UP	2.30	206,509,860	398,005,560.00
Property	1,649.32 DOWN	5.73	103,904,500	390,073,650.00
Service	1,820.29 UP	1.48	123,691,500	767,561,320.00
Mining & Oil	8,914.84 UP	491.17	3,656,357,200	1,125,098,530.00
All Shares Index	2,288.70 DOWN	2.53		
PSEi	3,703.66 UP	11.56		
		GRAND TOTALS	4,186,415,950	3,778,238,045.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH — SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Currencies

November 11, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.681524	1.000000	43.3730
Japan	Yen	0.006051	0.008879	0.3851
United Kingdom	Pound	1.436652	2.108000	91.4303
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087738	0.128738	5.5838
Switzerland	Franc	0.604188	0.886525	38.4512
Canada	Dollar	0.729761	1.070778	46.4429
Singapore	Dollar	0.473708	0.695072	30.1474
Australia	Dollar	0.630457	0.925069	40.1230
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.809051	2.654421	115.1302
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.182152	0.267272	11.5924
Brunei	Dollar	0.472068	0.692665	30.0430
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000075	0.000110	0.0048
Thailand	Baht	0.021670	0.031797	1.3791
UAE	Dirham	0.185610	0.272346	11.8125
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.467300	63.6412
Korea	Won	0.000752	0.001103	0.0478
China	Yuan**	0.091841	0.134758	5.8449
Denmark	Kroner	0.134200	0.196912	8.5407
India	Rupee	0.017417	0.025556	1.1084
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204724	0.300391	13.0289
New Zealand	Dollar	0.528600	0.775615	33.6407
Sweden	Kroner	0.108154	0.158695	6.8831
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021100	0.030960	1.3428

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 8, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 8, 2007

Maybank

GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker No.: BD-00131
Email: ggashare@morcom.com
Website: www.ggaclubshares.com

ANNOUNCEMENT: *Effective NOVEMBER 19, 2007
GG&A transfers to our new office located at:
*2/F, Goodland Building(formerly Nat'l Steel Bldg.), 377 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
*New Tel. No.: 890-GOLF (4653) ; New Fax No. : 896-1931
Tel No. 840-1761 & Fax No. 894-3021 will be replaced on Nov. 15, 2007.

Quotation as of November 12, 2007

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,100,000	1,080,000
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,250,000	1,150,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	560,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	330,000	280,000
CANLUBANG	470,000	430,000
CEBU COUNTRY CLUB	-	2,100,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	100,000	-
CLUB FILIPINO	120,000	90,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	150,000	-
EAGLERIDGE "B"	250,000	220,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	350,000	300,000
FOREST HILLS "A"	100,000	80,000
LUISITA GOLF "A"	350,000	250,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	240,000	200,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000	220,000
MANILA GOLF (CORP)	23,000,000	21,000,000
MANILA GOLF (IND)	23,000,000	20,000,000
MANILA POLO	5,000,000	4,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	280,000	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	650,000	630,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	170,000	150,000
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	280,000	-
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	300,000	-
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	170,000	130,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	290,000
SPA & LODGE	500,000	450,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,000,000	1,700,000
STA. ELENA "B"	-	1,900,000
TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	280,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	690,000	630,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	630,000
THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
VALLE VERDE (IND)	100,000	80,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	200,000
WACK-WACK GOLF CLUB	10,000,000	9,500,000

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17937
FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE — As of November 12, 2007
SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,150,000/1,220,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	260,000/Pls. Call*
Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	560,000
Camp John Hay	330,000	280,000
Canlubang Golf	500,000	-
Canyon Woods	90,000	-
Club Filipino	120,000	80,000
Eagleridge B*/C**	250,000*/350,000**	130,000/220,000*
Eastridge A/B*	100,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/200,000**	50,000/150,000*
Luisita Golf A	300,000	Pls. Call
Manila Golf Corporate	-	20,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	18,000,000
Manila Polo	5,000,000	3,900,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	300,000/Pls. Call*	250,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	190,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	200,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa C1/C2*/C3**	220,000/580,000**	150,000/430,000*/500,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/250,000*/280,000**	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	120,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	150,000*/250,000**	130,000*/150,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	280,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/130,000*	100,000*
Splendido Taal	200,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	2,100,000/2,500,000*	1,500,000
The Palms Country Club	340,000	320,000
Tagaytay Country Club	300,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	630,000
Tagaytay Midlands	670,000	630,000
Valley Golf	250,000	210,000
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	80,000
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	-

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PSE merger with other Asean bourses pushed

Greater economies of scale, enhanced competitiveness

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET must merge with other exchanges in the the Asean if it wants to remain relevant and competitive vis-à-vis its regional rivals over the next decade, an international consultancy group said.

In a study published recently, McKinsey & Co. warned that Asean bourses face the risk of being marginalized by stock exchanges in the West, which had pursued mergers or alliances to better corner the market.

"For the first time, mergers of exchanges across national boundaries are becoming a reality, leading to greater economies of scale," it said.

Lack of depth, global scale

"In contrast, the independent exchanges of Southeast Asia, with their lower liquidity and sub-scale trading and clearing facilities, face a serious risk of being left behind," it warned.

The firm said that despite their strong performance in recent months, Asean stock markets remained inferior to larger markets like Hong Kong and Japan.

"The heart of the problem is the lack of depth and global scale in Southeast Asia's capital markets," McKinsey said. "While Malaysia and Singapore have relatively deep ones, the domestic capitalization of their counterparts in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand is substantially below GDP (gross domestic product).

McKinsey said the average market capitalization-to-GDP ratio for most developed economies stood at 1.5 times GDP or more.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) has surpassed this level in recent months due to the strong influx of foreign portfolio investments which have pushed local stock prices to near-record highs.

At present, the total market value of all 313 firms listed on the PSE stands at P8.8 trillion. In contrast, the country's GDP is expected to hit at least P6.2 trillion by the end of 2007, putting the value of the local stock market at 1.4 times GDP.

Low turnover, high cost

Other woes that the PSE shares with markets in the region include a relatively low turnover rate and relatively higher transaction costs compared to Western counterparts.

"In every regional market except Thailand, an average share is traded less than once every two years, placing Southeast Asia's exchanges far behind those in developed markets and most of those in Northern Asia," McKinsey said.

Because of this, the cost of trading stands about 50 percent higher in Southeast Asia than in Northern Asia (mainly Japan and Korea) and 250 percent higher than in developed markets.

"The cost of liquidity, or the price impact of making a trade, was 50 percent higher than in Northern Asia and 200 percent higher than in the West," the study said. "Therefore, raising equity was 2-4 percent more expensive for Southeast Asian issuers than for their counterparts in more mature markets."

Regional integration

The study warned that if Southeast Asia's exchanges continue to pursue a "fully independent future," most of them risk falling behind or being "cherry-picked" in acquisitions by their rivals.

"Regional integration, by contrast, would change this picture fundamentally," it said. "Last year the five main Asean exchanges, if combined, would have ranked as the 15th largest exchange in the world and the third largest in Asia, after Tokyo and Hong Kong."

"In the short term, thanks to favorable domestic regulations and the natural pooling effect of domestic liquidity, the immediate threat to Southeast Asia's exchanges is limited," the study said. "However, the longer-term threat is very real, and once clear warning signs appear—for example, when liquidity starts to decline—it may be too late."

Eton to launch mega city project in Laguna

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ETON PROPERTIES PHILIPPINES Inc., the real-estate arm of tycoon Lucio Tan, is set to launch by December or January the first phase of its sprawling township dubbed "Eton Mega City" in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The project is expected to help boost activity in the southern portion of Metro Manila.

During a thanksgiving dinner for Eton clients Friday night, company president Danilo Ignacio unveiled the masterplan for "Lake Village," a 150-hectare island home development surrounded by a man-made lake. This will be the first phase of the 1,000-hectare Eton Mega City.

Ignacio said the man-made lake will cover 17 hectares and may be about 5-6 feet deep. Investors may buy lots of at least 500 square meters.

Ignacio said four to five "islands" of one hectare each would be "built" and each "island" would comprise 10 residential lots.

"We received an offer to buy one island for P100 million. If you buy 10 lots or one island, you get the naming rights," Ignacio said without naming the prospective buyer.

Foster City in San Francisco, an island built on engineered landfill on the bay, served as the inspiration for the design of Lakeside Village. Housing developments in Foster City surround an 80-hectare artificial lagoon.

Eton Mega City is envisioned to become the "Makati City of the South." The project will include a golf course and a central business district of 100 hectares, which will host office buildings and retail spaces.

The project will also include a business hotel (a four-star hotel without ballrooms), residential components (could be house and lots, townhouses, medium-rise buildings) and a school such as the University of the East, which the Tan Group owns.

Aside from its Laguna project, Eton will embark on a 34-hectare beach resort project in Mactan, Cebu. This will help boost tourism in the city," Ignacio had said. The project, dubbed the Eton Resort, will be started next year.

Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc., now Eton, got the nod of its stockholders yesterday to change its business purpose into that of a property company from a holding firm.

Eton earlier said it was pouring P10 billion into residential, office and leisure projects in less than five years in a bid to become one of the top five biggest real-estate firms in the country.

The Lucio Tan Group boasts of a vast experience in property development in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Xiamen, Beijing and Guam.

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STAR ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. (SAMSI)

STAR AUCTION PART 3

November 24, 2007 (Saturday)
Max's Restaurant, Jupiter St.,
Bel Air II, Makati City
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00AM
AUCTION STARTS AT 9:00AM

ACCEPTING PRE-AUCTION OFFERS!
10% DOWN PAYMENT
10% PAYMENT TERMS
10% INTEREST LINDEX

MEGA MANILA

ANTIPOLO

SAM_ANT007 FARM LOT
LA. 2,040 sqm.
(near Seven Dolours School)
Cor. Kasoy/Avocado Sts.
PHIL FARM VILLAGE, Brgy. St. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P 3,498,090

CALOOCAN

SAM_CAL019 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,440 sqm.
(near Pag-Ibig Mutual Fund)
Ge. Tirona & Gregoria de Jesus Sts.
BALINTAWAK
Min. Bid Price: P8,208,000

SAM_CAL022 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sm. (Near Vicas Market)
Lot 828-B-1-C SUSANO RD.
Min. Bid Price: P7,125,000

SAM_ CAL023 RSDL LOT
LA. 736 sqm.
(Near J.P Rizal Exit, Bagong Sibul St.)
Paulicas St., MAYPAJO
Min. Bid Price: P3,496,000

MALABON

SAM_MLB499 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 7,546 sqm. FA. 165 sqm.
(NEAR Hulo Market)
#165 Panghulo Rd.
BRGY. PANGHULO
Min. Bid Price: P16,601,200

MANILA

SAM_MLA032 WAREHSE CONDO
FA. 172.29 sqm.
NEW DIVISORIA SHOPPING CENTER,Tabora cor.
Sta. Elena Sts. Binondo
Min. Bid Price: P 6,030,150

PASAY

SAM_PSY066 COMM'L LOT
LA. 3,008 sqm.
(near Traders Hotel)
Roxas Blvd. SAN RAFAEL DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P57,152,000

PASIG CITY (ORTIGAS)

SAM_PSG071 OFFICE CONDO
LA. 198.27 sqm.
(near SM Mega Mall)
BELVEDERE TOWER CONDOMINIUM
San Miguel Ave
Min. Bid Price: 5,898,533

QUEZON CITY

SAM_QCB375 HOUSE& LOT
LA. 600 sqm. FA. 945.50 sqm.
(near SM Fairview)
Fuer de Les Mariposa St.
GENEVA GARDEN,NEOPOLITAN
Min. Bid Price:P3,800,000

SAM_QCB075 RSD'L CONDO
FA.97.28 sqm.
ATHERTON PLACE CONDO,
Tomas Morato
Min. Bid Price:P 3,404,800

SAM_QCB076 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 289.70 sqm. FA. 402 sqm.
(Near Araneta Ave.)
Palanza St., SANTOL DIST.
Min. Bid Price: P 5,753,438

SAM_QCB078 COMM'L. LOT
LA. 675 sqm.
(near Don A. Roces High Sch.)
Roces Ave./Sct. Castor St. DILIMAN
Min. Bid Price: P12,427,425

SAM_QCL081 RSDL LOT
LA. 506 sqm.
(near Ateneo, Miriam College)
Emilio Jacinto cor. Sultan Kudarat St.
AYALA HEIGHTS Balara District
Min. Bid Price:P9,133,300

SAM_QCB083 RSDL LOT
LA. 537 sqm. (Adjacent to Marytown Schl.)
Mary Town Circle Rd.
GREENFIELD SUBD.,
Galigayahan Novaliches
Min. Bid Price:P1,932,959

SAM_QCB084 RSDL LOT
LA. 2,399 sqm.
(Near intersection of Edsa and North Expressway)
BRGY. UNANG SIGAW
Min. Bid Price:P10,195,750

SAM_QCB085 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 1,310 sqm. FA. 1,991 sqm
(Near Tierra Pura Subdivision)
JORJO BLDG., Tandang Sora Ave.
Culiat
Min. Bid Price:-P 20,712,375

SAM_QCL086 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,355 sqm.
(Near Sandigan Bldg.)
DON FABIAN SUBD., Capitol Dist
Min. Bid Price: P3,638,090

SAM_QCB087 RSDL/COMM'L LOT
LA. 809.80 sqm.
(near Shell Gas Station)
KALAYAAN AVE. Diliman
Min. Bid Price: P10,739,750

SAM_QCB089 RSDL CONDO
FA. 288.58 sqm.
(Near Welcome Rotonda)
GENESIS CONDO,
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.
Min. Bid Price:P6,132,325

RIZAL/CAINTA/TANAY

SAM_RZL013 COMM'L LOT
LA. 754 sqm. (near Mitsubishi)
ORTIGAS AVE. EXT.. San Isidro,Cainta
Min. Bid Price:P10,744,500

SAN JUAN (GREENHILLS)

SAM_SJ098 OFFICE UNIT W/PRKG
FA. 63 sqm.
RICHBELT TOWER, Annapolis St.
(Near Greenhills Shopping Center)
Min. Bid Price: P1,615,000

TAGUIG

SAM_TAG101 FAMILY ESTATE MEMORIAL LOTS
(4 lots available)
THE HERITAGE PARK, Fort Bonifacio

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
60 sqm.	P 3,386,400
100 sqm.	P 5,644,000

VALENZUELA

SAM_VAL102 FACTORY
LA. 3,348 sqm. FA. 3,169 sqm.
(Near Malinta Exit/ Royal Mall
Lords St.) PASO DE BLAS ST.
Min. Bid Price:P 15,903,000

SAM_VAL103 5-DR RSDL APRTMT
LA. 437.70 sqm. FA. 425 sqm.
(near Bayna Commercial)
Interior Lamesa St. BRGY.UGONG
Min. Bid Price: P 1,917,813

SAM_VAL106 IND'L LOT
LA. 5,782 sqm.
(near Fatima Univ. Maysan Rd)
Francisco St. PTA COMPOUND,
Balubaran
Min. Bid Price:P 16,478,700

SAM_VAL452 RSD'L LOT
LA. 854 sqm.
Quegrande St. BRGY.UGONG
Min. Bid Price: P 1,995,000

LUZON

BAGUIO Text 09185328111

SAM_BAG107 RSDL LOT
LA. 440 sqm.
(near woodsgate Subd.Camp7)
WOODSGATE SQUARE SUBD..
Brgy. Camp 7
Min. Bid Price:P 1,870,000

BATAAN

SAM_ BAN460 AGRI LOT
LA. 95,734 sqm.
Alas-Asin Rd. MARIVELES
Min. Bid Price: P26,848,950

BATANGAS

SAM_BAT139 RSDL LOTS
LA. 2000 sqm.
Brgy. Anilao LIPA
Min. Bid Price: P 2,550,000

BULACAN

SAM_BUL122 AGRI LOT
LA. 10,801 sqm.
BRGY.SAN FRANCISCO,
Bulacan,Bulacan
Min. Bid Price: P 3,078,000

SAM_BUL131 IND'L LOT W/ 3 WAREHOUSES
LA. 7,272 sqm. FA. 3,943 sqm.
(Near E. A. Delos Santos Construction Supply)
NHA Ind'l Site, Brgy. Minuyan,
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE
Min. Bid Price: P 8,195,080

SAM_BUL132 AGRI LOT
LA. 7,155 sqm.
TBo. Guyong, STA. MARIA
Min. Bid Price: P 3,379,625

SAM_BUL456 IND'L LOT W/ WAREHOUSE
C. Mercedao St. Bo. Matungao,
Tuktukan,Pob. GUIGUINTO

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min. Bid Price:
69,545 sqm	25,270sqm	P 125,181,000
21,891sqm	9,345sqm	P 39,403,800

SAM_BUL457 IND'L LOT
LA.32,671 sqm. FA. 6,040 sqm.
Bo. Camalig (Iba), MEYCAUAN
Min. Bid Price: P108,161,403

SAM_BUL458 RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOTS
LA. 80,022 sqm. (7 lots)
(Near Tabang Nlex Exit)
Phase II STA. CLARA COUNTRY ESTATE Sta. Rita Guiguinto
Min. Bid Price: P83,103,591

SAM_BUL459 RSD'L VACANT LOT
LA. 10,000 sqm.
MENZYLAND SUBD.
Mojon Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P10,200,000

CAVITE

SAM_CVT143 RSDL CONDO
(near SLEX-Golf & Resort Vill)
MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF MANORS, Carmona

Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
35.04 sqm.	P 805,929
38.35 sqm.	P 882,060
67.07 sqm.	P 1,542,627
67.01 sqm.	P 1,541,247
73.38 sqm.	P 1,687,758

SAM_CVT145 RSDL LOT
LA. 795 sqm.
(near Robinson & SM Dasma)
Kalamansi St. GREENFIELD HTS. SUBD.
Brgy. Bukal Dasmarinas
Min. Bid Price:P 2,035,037

SAM_CVT147 RSDL LOTS
MANILA SOUTHWOODS MANOR, Carmona
(near SLEX-Golf & Resort Vill.)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price:
486 sqm.	P 1,458,000
520 sqm.	P 1,560,000
578 sqm.	P 1,734,000
582 sqm.	P 1,746,000
632 sqm.	P 1,896,000
940 sqm.	P 2,820,000

SAM_CVT453 RSD'L/IND'L LOT
LA 263,062 sqm
GOV. DRIVE EXT.. Brgy. Tanauan, Tanza (near EPZA & Gen. Trias)
Min. Bid Price: P125,230,132

LAGUNA

SAM_LGN153 RSDL LOT
LA. 961.00 sqm.
(Near Carmelray Industrial Park)
Montecito Estate, Canlubang, Calamba
Min. Bid Price: P3,686,036

SAM_LGN155 RSDL LOT
LA. 874 sqm.
(Near San Pablo City Hall)
Mabini Extention, San Lucas I
SAN PABLO CITY
Min. Bid Price: P 1,857,250

LA UNION Text 09064371494

SAM_LAU109 AGRI LOT W/ ROW
LA. 74,694 sqm. (Interior lot)
ARINGAY, La Union
Min. Bid Price: P 3,547,965

SAM_LAU110 AGRI FARM
LA 13,687 sqm
(near Pugo Elem. Schl.)
Pugo, BAUANG
Min. Bid Price: P 5,816,975

PAMPANGA

SAM_PAM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 10,719 sqm. FA. 54 sqm.
Brgy. Tanquilcan, SAN FERNANDO
Min. Bid Price: P17,311,185

PANGASINAN Text 09154348252

SAM_PSN115 RSDL LOTS W/ 2 STRY. RSDL BLDG.
LA.1,530 sqm. FA.395 sqm.
(near San Vicente Elem. School)
Bgy. San Vicente, SAN JACINTO
Min. Bid Price: P 1,530,000

TARLAC Text 09175141884

SAM_TAR136 AGRILOT W/ House
L.A. 49,713 sqm F.A. 391 sqm.
Bo. Caluluan, CONCEPCION
Min. Bid Price: P 16,529,573

ZAMBALES

SAM_ZBS461 AGRI LOT
LA. 31,418 sqm.
National Highway Bo. Asinan
Property , SUBIC
Min. Bid Price: P 14,467,538

VISAYAS

BACOLOD Text 09214488869

SAM_BAC179 2-STRY TOWNHSE BEVERLY HOMES TOWNHOUSES
Sta. Clara Subd.,
(near Robinson/Lopues)

Lot Area	Floor Area	Min. Bid Price
118 sqm.	163 sqm	P 1,900,000
172 sqm.	163 sqm.	P 2,215,400
181 sqm.	163 sqm.	P 2,104,630

SAM_BAC184 COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 165 sqm.(near Ceres Terminal)
NARRA AVE.
Min. Bid Price:P2,996,240

SAM_BAC185 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,107 sqm (fronting Pehmkoo)
ARANETA ST., Extenson, Brgy. Tangub
Min. Bid Price: P 4,037,500

SAM_BAC186 IND'L LOT
PAHANOY MANSILINGAN
(near CEGASCO)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
8,000 sqm	P 6,800,000
29,405 sqm.	P 13,967,375

SAM_BAC190 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,460 sqm.
(near Police Head Quarters)
Burgos Ext. CAMP ALFREDO MONTELIBANO
Min. Bid Price:P 1,861,500

SAM_BAC191 RSDL LOT W/ 2 STRY. RSDL BLDG.
LA. 2,710 sqm. FA. 820 sqm.
(near Robinson's & ABS-CBN)
Gatuslao St., CAPITOL SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 8,139,196

SAM_BAC193 COMM'L LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.
(near Shell Gas Station)
P. Hernaez, Street Ext.
CITY HEIGHTS SUBD.,
Brgy. Taculing
Min. Bid Price:P 6,399,487

SAM_BAC196 2-STRY COMM'L BLDG
LA. 178 sqm FA.326 sqm.
(near Bus Terminal)
C-50 NARRA AVENUE
Capitol Shopping Center
Min. Bid Price: P2,670,000

SAM_BAC198 RSDL LOTS
LA. 1,966 sqm.
(near Montebello Subd.)
LA HERANCIA NEGRENSE SUBD.
Brgy. Mandalagan
Min. Bid Price:P5,535,556

CEBU Text 09266256957

SAM_CBU166 RSD'L LOT
LA. 9,794 sqm.
(w/n Alta Vista Golf & Country Club)
BRGY. TOONG PARDO
Min. Bid Price: P5,640,508

SAM_CBU171 RSD'L VACANT LOT
LA. 1,859 sqm. FA.103 sqm.
(mins. Away from White Beaches of Mactan)
Brgy. Pajo, LAPU-LAPU CITY
Min. Bid Price:P 3,283,087

SAM_CBU173 SINGLE STRY COMM'L BLDG.
LA. 5,659 FA. 324 sqm
(w/n Olanga Island)
Sta. Rosa, LAPU-LAPU CITY
Min. Bid Price:P4,000,000

ILOILO Text 09206186282

SAM_ILO200 RSDL LOT
LA. 6,000 sqm
(near Mutual Home Subd.)
Brgy. Ilaya, ZARRAGA
Min. Bid Price: P2,468,000

SAM_ILO206 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 2,412 sqm. FA. 459 sqm.
(near Alegre small Fishfolks MPC)
Arevalo-Oton Prov. Rd.,
Brgy. Alegre, OTON
Min. Bid Price:P 5,685,304

SAM_ILO207 RSD'L LOT
LA. 114,783 sqm.
(adjacent to Balbagan Brgy. Chapel)
Balibagan-Oeste, STA. BARBARA
Min. Bid Price:P 48,782,775

MINDANAO

CAGAYAN DE ORO Text 09217388885

SAM_CDO221 AGRI LOT
LA. 28,907 sqm.
(near Women's Dev't Center)
BRGY. CANITO-AN
Min. Bid Price:P3,685,643

SAM_CDO227 COMM'L LOT
LA. 442 sqm.
(adjacent to Xavier Univ.)
HAYES ST. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price:P4,525,717

SAM_CDO228 COMM'L LOT
MAKAHAMBUS Burgos St. Pob.
(Near FaithTabernacle Churh)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
349 sqm	P 1,794,000
618 sqm	P 3,177,000

SAM_CDO231 AGRI LOT
LA. 47,975 sqm.
(near Catanico Elem. Schl.)
Catinaco, SINONOP DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P4,077,875

SAM_CDO233 RSDL LOT
LA. 27,929 sqm.
(near Bulabal Elem. Schl.)
BALUBAL
Min. Bid Price:P4,747,930

SAM_CDO235 RSDL LOT
(w/ 2stry. H&L & single Stry. H&L)
LA. 2,130 sqm. F.A. 338 sqm.
Super highay, KAUSWAGAN
Min. Bid Price:P4,089,272

SAM_CDO237 2-STY HSE & LOT
LA. 1,662 sqm FA. 173 sqm.
(across the property of Oro Rama Mega Center), LAPASAN
Min. Bid Price: P8,310,000

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

SAM_CMP240 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,204 sqm. FA. 505 sqm.
(near Rural Bank)
Judge E. Chavez St,
POB. NABUNTURAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,311,495

SAM_CMP244 RSDL LOT
LA. 7,727 sqm.
Penaranda cor. Gen. Ebuen Sts.
POBLACION MONYAKO
Min. Bid Price:P16,419,875

DAVAO Text 09198209662

SAM_DAV 251 AGRI LOT
LA. 39,366 sqm
(near San Agustin Chapel)
Sitio Ramihan, TORIL
Min. Bid Price: P13,089,195

SAM_DAV252 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,334 sqm.
(near Pilipinas Ave.)
Zamboanga cor. Samal Sts.
INSULAR VILL., PII, Buhangin
Min. Bid Price:P7,683,224

SAM_DAV254 COMM'L LOT
LA. 20,884 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY Brgy. Dumoy
Min. Bid Price: P5,895,481

SAM_DAV255 RSD'L/COMM'L LOT
LA. 157 sqm.
(near University Of Immaculate Concepcion)
Bonifacio St., STA. ANA DIST.
Min. Bid Price: P2,402,100

SAM_DAV256 RSD'L LOT
LA. 300,000 sqm.
Brgy. Baliok DIST. OF TALOMO
Min. Bid Price: P53,638,053

SAM_DAV257 RSD' L LOT
LA. 90,473 sqm.
(near Davao Holy Trinity)
Brgy. Road, BRGY. BAGO GALLERA
Min. Bid Price: P30,081,750

SAM_DAV258 IND'L LOT W/ HSE
LA. 18,823 sqm. FA. 122 sqm.
National Highway, Bago Aplaya, DUMOY, Toril
Min. Bid Price:P31,999,100

SAM_DAV261 VARIOUS COMM'L BLDG
LA. 6,760 sqm FA. 3,944 sqm.
(near Ecoland subd.)
QUIMPO BOULEVARD, Matina
Min. Bid Price: P60,000,000

SAM_DAV280 RSDL LOT
LA. 1,000 sqm.
BO. PAMPANGA
Min. Bid Price: P2,375,000

SAM_DAV281 2-STRY HSE & LOT
LA. 894 sqm. FA. 90 sqm.
(right behind Farmacia Sta. Ana, Matina) STO. NINO COMMUNITY, Brgy. Matina
Min. Bid Price: P2,207,000

SAM_DAV285 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,417 sqm.
Upper Piedad, TORIL DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P14,000,350

SAM_DAV291 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 805 sqm. FA. 216 sqm.
Near Poblacion Brgy. Hall
ELPIDIO QUIRINO AVE.
Brgy. 4, Pob. Dist.
Min. Bid Price: P8,060,000

SAM_DAV292 RSD' L LOT
LA. 4,000 sqm.
NAT'L H-WAY, Bago
Min. Bid Price: P11,775,056

SAM_DAV294 AGRI LOT
LA. 16,044 sqm.(near NIA Rd)
Brgy. Del Pilar, NEW CORELLA
Min. Bid Price:P1,943,330

SAM_DAV298 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 14,214 sqm. FA. 360 sqm.
(along MATI Nat'l Highway)
BRGY. BAGUMBAYAN, Lupon
Min. Bid Price:P1,819,246

SAM_DAV299 IND'L LOT
LA. 94,687 sqm
Davao – Agusan Nat'l. Road
Brgy. Mahayag, BUNAWAN DIST.
Min. Bid Price:P224,881,625

SAM_DAV301 AGRI LOT
LA. 74,632 sqm.
BRGY. POBLACION
Min. Bid Price:P31,718,600

SAM_DAV307 AGRI LOTS
LA. 477,481sqm.
BO. MATINA PANGI
Min. Bid Price: P 179,055,375

GENERAL SANTOS Text 09267666746

SAM_GSC314 COMM'L LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
LA 7,501 sqm FA 4,697 sqm
(BESIDE China Bank)
SANTIAGO BOULEVARD,
Barrio Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P96,759,750

SAM_GSC316 AGRI LOT
LA 18,369 sqm
(Near Tinagacan Proposed Market Site) BARRIO TINAGCAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,351,044

SAM_GSC320 IND'L LOT
LA 30,997 sqm.
(near former MSU Rd)
BARRIO TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price: P9,918,245

SAM_GSC321 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,034 sqm. FA 246 sqm.
(Near Cambridge Hotel and Restaurant) MANANSALA SUBD.,
Brgy. San Isidro,
Min. Bid Price:P3,241,828

SAM_GSC326 IND'L LOT
LA. 10,304 sqm.,
BO. OF TAMBLER (MCU Rd.)
Min. Bid Price:P 2,189,600

SAM_GSC331 RSDL LOT
LA 5,000 sqm
(near Monsanto Hybrid Farm)
Brgy. Rd. Purok 18,LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC339 COMM'L LOT
LA 778 sqm. (Fronting former Bayfront Noodle House)
P. Acharon Blvd. cor. Salazar & Veterans Sts.,
BRGY. DADIANGAS SOUTH
Min. Bid Price:P11,242,100

SAM_GSC341 COMM'L LOT
LA 1,109 sqm
CALUMPANG AVE., Calumpang
Min. Bid Price:P4,092,559

SAM_GSC343 AGRI LOT
LA 20,293 sqm.
Packing One,
SLAUGHTER HOUSE RD.
Min. Bid Price:P1,638,660

SAM_GSC348 HOUSE & LOT
LA 451 sqm FA 248 sqm
(meters away from Desmark Motors) ROXAS ST. (near SSS)
Min. Bid Price: P6,926,805

SAM_GSC350 RSDL LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
LA 3,303 sqm FA.830 sqm.
(nea Medoz Pension Jazz House)
MORALES SUBD., Bo. Lagao
Min. Bid Price:P3,931,576

SAM_GSC351 HOUSE & LOT
LA 645 sqm FA 194 sqm
ROSAS ST.
Min. Bid Price:P2,630,431

SAM_GSC353 AGRI LOT
LA 76,229 sqm
(Near St. Peter Chapel)
Lanton. BO. OF SINAWAL
Min. Bid Price: P9,756,530

SAM_GSC355 INDS'L LOT
LA 19,663 sqm.
(near MGTK Fishing Industry)
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price:P7,186,827

SAM_GSC358 IND'L LOT
LA 20,000 sqm.
BO. OF TAMBLER
Min. Bid Price:P4,250,000

SAM_GSC367 WHOLE SUBD. W/O DEVELOPMENT
L.A. 1701,716 sqm.
SERRAMAR EXEC. HOMES, Conel Rd
Lagao, (near w/n Brgy. Makar)
Min. Bid Price: P 68,754,75

SAM_GSC370 HOUSE & LOT
LA 604 sqm FA 272 sqm
Mangustan Street, BRGY. DADIANGAS NORTH
Min. Bid Price: P1,788,128

SAM_GSC373 AGRI LOT
LA 11,694 sqm.
(Near Shrineville Subd)
Farm Road, BRGY. LAGAO
Min. Bid Price:P2,981,970

SAM_GSC466 IND'L LOT
LA. 16,248 sqm.
NAT'L HIGHWAY CALUMPANG,
Brgy. Makar
Min. Bid Price: P41,883,560

SAM_GSC467 IND'L LOT
LA. 13,544 sqm.
Makar-Siguil Rd.New Bohol,CALUMPANG
Min. Bid Price: P18,650,088

SAM_GSC468 COMM'L LOT
LA. 206,346 sqm.
Bo. Lamcanal,MALANDAG
Min. Bid Price: P7,639,163

MISAMIS Text 09217388885

SAM_ MIS469 HOUSE & LOT
LA 11,378 sqm FA 238 sqm
ALUBIJID, Misamis Oriental
Min. Bid Price: P1,934,260

NORTH COTOBATO Text 09157470332

SAM_NCT376 AGRI LOT
LA 49, 538 sqm
National Rd., Brgy. Manubuan, MATALAM
Min. Bid Price:P3,633,750

SAM_NCT377 RSDL LOT W/ PIGGERY
LA 15,000 sqm FA 1,320 sqm
Brgy. Katidtuan, KABABACAN
Min. Bid Price: 2,550,000

SOUTH COTABATO Text 09157470332

SAM_SCT378 INDS'L LOT W/ MOTORPOOL
LA 3,000 sqm FA 330 sqm
LIGTAS VILLAGE, Cannery Rd., Polomok (near Tropiland Pawnshop)
Min. Bid Price: P2,550,000

SAM_SCT382 RSD'L LOT
LA 13, 477 sqm
(near Sto.Nino Nat'l Town Hall)
POB. STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: P5,727,725

SAM_SCT384 HOUSE & LOT
LA 22, 687 sqm FA 176 sqm
(near Bonzo Ricemill)
Bo. Simsiman, POBLACION NORALA
Min. Bid Price: P9,641,975

SAM_SCT386 RSDL LOT W/ WAREHOUSE
LA 2, 581 sqm
POBLACION STO. NINO
Min. Bid Price: 2,193,850

SAM_SCT474 HOUSE & LOT
LA. 1,073 sqm. FA. 170 sqm.
PUROK SAMPAGUITA
Pob. Sto. Nino
Min. Bid Price: P4,560,250

SULTAN KUDARAT Text 09157470332

SAM_SUL397 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 642 sqm.(near Metrobank)
BO. DANSULI, Isulan
Min. Bid Price: P2,245,700

SAM_SUL400 2-STRY COMM'L BUILDING
LA 750 sqm FA 533 sqm
QUIRINO AVE.,Poblacion, Tacurong City
Min. Bid Price:P4,799,615

SAM_SUL401 HOUSE & LOT
Molave cor. Flores Sts.
(near Esperanza Mun. High Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min Bid Price
423 sqm	370 sqm	P 1,797,750
405 sqm	163 sqm	P 3,442,500

SAM_SUL406 HOUSE & LOT
LA 494 sqm FA 148 sqm
(near RCBC Isulan)
Along Municipal Rd.,
KALAWAG III, Isulan,
Min. Bid Price: P4,199,000

TAGUM Text 09267666746

SAM_TGM411 AGRI LOT
LA 4, 328 sqm
(Near Univ. of Southeastern Phil.)
Brgy. Apokon, PUROK V
Min. Bid Price:P1,839,400

SAM_ TGM415 INDS'L LOT
LA 6,000 sqm
(Near San Vicente Ferrer Chapel)
APOKON
Min. Bid Price:P3,876,000

SAM_TGM431 AGRI RAW LAND
LA 23, 441 sqm.
(near UMTagum Coll.)
VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price:P6,973,698

SAM_ TGM436 HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,000 sqm
MEL VILLAGE, Brgy. Visayan Village
Min. Bid Price:P2,287,177

SAM_TGM437 COMM'L LOT
Quirante II St. PRK. LAPU-LAPU, Magugpo
(near JVC,back of JS Gaisano)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
1,646 sqm.	P 6,995,500
3,001 sqm.	P 25,508,500

SAM_TGM440 RSD'L LOT
LA 3,000 sqm
(New Life Ministryes Chapel)
PUROK ORANGE VALLEY,
Magugpo South
Min. Bid Price: P6,375,000

SAM_TGM450 RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL BUILDING
LA 379 sqm FA 514 sqm
SOBRECAREY ST.
Min. Bid Price:P4,850,811

SAM_TGM455 HOUSE & LOT
LA 7, 456 sqm FA 106 sqm
(near YBC Store)
DOMINGO SUBD., Magugpo Poblacion,
Min. Bid Price: P6,337,600

SAM_TGM470 COMM'L BLDG
LA 18, 830 sqm FA 2, 117 sqm
(near First Consolidated Bank)
PAGSABANGAN RD.,
Brgy. Mankilam,
Min. Bid Price: P21,479,366

SAM_TGM477 HOUSE & LOT
Purok Palmera, VISAYAN VILLAGE
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area	Flr Area	Min. Bid Price
750 sqm	400 sqm	P 1,593,750
1,066 sqm	192 sqm	P 2,265,250
1,406 sqm	400 sqm	P 2,987,750

SAM_TGM481 RSD'L LOT
VISAYAN VILLAGE
(near Visayan Elem. Sch.)

Lot Area	Min. Bid Price
4,500 sqm	P 9,562,500
1,236 sqm.	P 2,626,500
1,512 sqm.	P 3,213,000
1,648sqm	P 3,502,000
2,338 sqm.	P 4,968,250
7,014sqm.	P 5,961,900

SAM_TGM482 AGRI LOT
LA 12, 580 sqm.
(near Clausio Inse,Sicat Cockpit Arena) BRGY. CANOCOTAN
Min. Bid Price:P2,138,600

SAM_TGM492 RSDL LOT
LA 2, 119 sqm.
Purok Malinawon,
MAGUGPO EAST,
Min. Bid Price: P4,502,875

SAM_TGM493 AGRI LOT
LA. 62,900 sqm.
BRGY. CANOCOTAN (San Isidro)
(near Sicat Cockpit Arena)
Min. Bid Price:P21,386,000

SAM_TGM495 12 RSD'L LOTS
LA 15,610 sqm
Purok Cacao, VISAYAN VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price: P6,634,250

SAM_TGM497 RSDL LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
LA 24, 022 sqm FA 1, 062 sqm.
Tagum-Kapalong, Provincial Rd.,
BRGY. PAGSABANGAN
Min. Bid Price: P20,418,700

FOR DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS., MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7:AM TO 7:PM
TEL. NOS.: (02) 534-9686 / (02) 534-9725 CELLPHONE NO.: 0919-5649933

Show money P25,000 cash or Managers Check per property payable to STAR ASSET MANAGEMENT ROPOAS. INC. All properties for sale are on "as is where is" basis. Properties are subject to change without prior notice. The AUCTIONEER reserves the right at anytime to pull out, to correct errors in prices, terms, details & status of the properties in the event descrepancies are found.

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nolialleje @yahoo.com

Honda Civic price adjustments bared

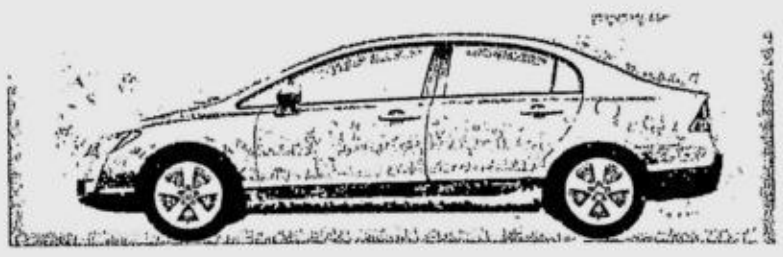
HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC (HCPI) has announced plans to adjust the suggested retail prices of its award-winning compact sedan, the Honda Civic. Effective Nov. 15, all Honda Civic powered with 1.8 li iVTEC engine will experience minimal price adjustments. The 1.8-liter V variants will be increased by P13,000. Honda Civic 1.8-liter V with manual transmission will be priced at P790,000, while the automatic transmission will be priced at P830,000. On the other hand, the 1.8-liter S variants will increase by as much as P11,000. Honda Civic 1.8-liter S with manual transmission will be priced at P855,000 and P895,000 for the automatic transmission.

The announcement ends the introductory prices announced in April 2006, when the eighth-generation Civic was introduced to the Philippine market. The Civic has taken the local automotive industry by storm and has won back-to-back premier accolades in the country. Named the Car of the Year by the Car Awards Group Inc (Cagi) and Automobile of the Year during the 3rd Auto Focus People's Choice Awards (AFPC), it continues to be the best-selling model in the passenger car segment with 6,494 units sold from January to October 2007.

The Civic comes with the revolutionary i-VTEC engine, which delivers optimal power coupled with unparalleled fuel efficiency. Capable of producing 140 ps at 6300 rpm for 1.8-liter engine and 155 ps at 6000 rpm for 2.0-liter DOHC engine, the Civic offers spirited driving performance while achieving minimum levels of fuel consumption.

The Civic also boasts of a Mono Form Sport design that features dynamic flowing upper body and muscular lower body, earning esteem for its innovative interior and exterior styling.

This best-selling sedan can be yours through Honda's low downpayment or low monthly plans. Experience the Civic's powerful yet fuel-efficient i-VTEC engine, above-class features and overall style for



only P9,116 a month with 50-percent downpayment. Opt for the low 15-percent downpayment plan and bring home the Civic for as low as P118,500.

The Civic is available in Alabaster Silver, Nighthawk Black, Habanero Red, Bluish Silver, and an exclusive Pearl White Mica color for the 2.0-liter S-L variant.

For more details, call any Honda dealership or log on to www.hondaphil.com.

The Grand Towers rises in Manila

THE GRAND TOWERS, A 42-STORY twin tower condominium development, is rising along historic Vito Cruz Street, right in front of Rizal Memorial Sports Complex near Taft Avenue.

The newest residential landmark in Manila developed by Moldex Land Inc consists of two 42-story towers with a total of 1,800 units majestically laid out on a lot of more than 4,000 sqm. The twin tower provides 3,000 sqm for the Grand Podium Deck which consists of first-rate leisure and amenities that are all geared towards the promotion of a balanced well-being and a convenient lifestyle.

This high-rise residence can essentially sustain itself. Commercial units cover the entire first floor. A full floor of condominium facilities and amenities comprise the Deck. Lush gardens punctuate strategic areas of the deck. An outdoor and whirlpool spa, a gaming lounge, safe children's playground, fully equipped fitness center, and an expansive multi-purpose hall comprise the recreational area of the building. Add to this a wi-fi enabled study area and a full service concierge at the ground floor.

With its complete amenities, one does not need to go out of the building for recreational needs. But it is a comfort to know that the location of the Grand Towers allows one to go to all points of the Metro in a matter of minutes. The surroundings of the Grand Towers are a cornucopia of scenes that make up the soul of Manila. Access to the Grand Towers from Quezon City and Makati is made possible by its proximity to the LRT station. Surrounding the condominium is the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, De La Salle University, College of St. Benilde, St. Scholastica's College, Century Park Hotel and Harrison Plaza and the various tourist spots in Manila like Luneta, Intramuros and the various attractions along Roxas Boulevard.

With unit prices that start at P1.4 million, the Grand Towers is made even more affordable through flexible, easy-to-own schemes via Pag-Ibig and in-house financing. One can choose from a studio type or a one, two or three bedroom unit carefully planned to suit modern city living.

The Grand Towers is where residential needs and investment opportunities meet. Used as a home or as an investment, its value increases because of the project's unique location and features.

Interested parties who wish to view the site can call 522-2675/528-1249, or visit the office at the ground floor of the Golden Bay Hotel, Padre Faura corner Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila.

Figaro celebrates its 15th year in coffee

THIS NOVEMBER MARKS FIGARO COFfee Company's entrance into its 15th year of serving great coffee grown by Filipino farmers and now served around the country, from Baguio to Davao and all the key cities in between such as Bacolod and soon Iloilo and Cebu.

On Nov. 14, the first 15 customers of all Figaro coffee shop will get free coffee. Figaro serves freshly brewed coffee, a variety of ice blended frozen drinks, espresso-based cappuccinos, lattes and mochas and new additions such as Caramel Frost Light and Caramel Cappuccino Light.

Mark the date, Nov. 14. Enjoy breakfast at Figaro's streetside locations and your first morning coffee at any of Figaro's locations in the country's major malls. Figaro also has kiosks serving to-go coffee in Citibank Tower, BPI Card center on Paseo de Roxas, Terminal 2 airport, PNB Main Office in Pasay, or log on to www.figarocoffee.com for the locations near you.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTING STAFF - Male/Female. 21-28 years old, Graduate of BS Accountancy, can work with minimal supervision, willing to work long hours.

HR ANALYST/OFFICER - Male/Female. 21-28 years old, Graduate of BS Psychology or any related course, Pleasing personality

IT STAFF - Male. 21-28 years old, Graduate of IT related course, Knows how to troubleshoot computers, Able to use Visual Basic Programming

SECRETARY - Male/Female. 21-26 years old, Graduate of Custom Administration course, has knowledge in Cargo/Shipment

Interior Designer - Male/Female. 21-28 years old, Graduate of BS Interior Design, pleasing personality.

Technician - Male/Female. 21-30 years old, Graduate of any 2 year vocational course, knowledge in electronic troubleshooting and installing

Also Hiring : **Promodizers, Graphic Artist, Data Encoder, Office Staff, Marketing Officer, Receptionist, Messenger, Service Crew, Bartender**

Interested applicants apply in person bring 2 copies of resume and 2pcs. 2x2 pictures. **No** fees are to be collected.

MLS' Builder & Service Corporation
Unit 15-D, 15 Floor 358 Petron Mega Plaza
Gil Puyat Avenue, Brgy. Bel Air, Makati
Tel. No. 844-5545

JAPAN COMPANY OPENS IN CEBU & CAGAYAN DE ORO

NEW ARRIVALS **QUALITY SURPLUS TRUCKS**

ASSISTS & RECOMMENDS ACCREDITED FINANCING INSTITUTIONS

-DUMPTRUCK, 10 WHEELER-10PC, 10PD, 12PD
-FORWARD-8 HOLES, 25 ft cargo, 6HE1-T (260HP)
-FORWARD DUMPTRUCK 6HE1
-ELF CARGO TRUCK (16ft cargo box)

CEBU BR: 032-3466688; 032-4227537 * CAGAYAN BR: 088-8563033

CEBU 999 TRADING

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that

ROSARIO MAXIMA HENSON

has been issued **WARRANTS OF ARREST** by the Municipal Trial Court of Mabalacat, Pampanga as per Criminal Case numbers 06-133 to 06-146. Any information that may lead to her arrest may be communicated to Raine at tel. no. (045) 961-8115 / 961-6774.

A **CASH REWARD** awaits the informant.

(PDI-Nov. 5 & 12, 2007)

S.H. ENTERPRISE INC.
is in need of the following
SITE OPERATIONS MANAGER / ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER
Qualifications: must have 3 years experience on the same field, Must know how to speak Korean language
(047) 252-7330 / 252-7950 / 252-7960 / Fax No. (047) 252-7331
#3 Lots 83 & 84 Efficiency Avenue
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase 1,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone or may submit the resumé to:
www.s.h.enterprise@subictel.com

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07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
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09213497170

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NOTICE OF CHANGE OF STOCK CERTIFICATES OF PAL HOLDINGS, INC.

Please be advised that the Securities and Exchange Commission approved on January 19, 2007 the Company's Amended Articles of Incorporation and Certificate of Increase of Capital Stock reflecting the change in the corporate name from "Baguio Gold Holdings Corporation" to "PAL HOLDINGS, INC." and the increase in authorized capital stock from "P400 million divided into 400 million shares with a par value of P1.00 per share" to "P20 BILLION DIVIDED INTO 20 BILLION SHARES WITH A PAR VALUE OF P1.00 PER SHARE." As a result of the foregoing, the Company will change the old stock certificates and issue new stock certificates reflecting the said changes.

Any stockholder desiring to have their stock certificates replaced with the new certificates under the new corporate name and authorized capital stock of P20 billion, may surrender its/his/her/their old stock certificates to the Stock and Transfer Agent, Allied Banking Corporation – Trust and Investments Division, 4/F Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. The Stock and Transfer Agent will notify the respective shareholders when to claim the new stock certificates.

For inquiries, you may call telephone no. 816-33-11 local 3228/ 3206 and ask for Mr. Francis Doroja.

Thank you.

(Original Signed)
MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–Nov. 12 & 19, 2007)

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the 15th Death Anniversary of

Lt. Roy Quintin S. Alcudia Jr.

Masses will be offered today, Nov. 12, 2007 at the following churches:

St. Michael Parish, Taguig	6:30 a.m.
Santuario San Antonio, Forbes	12:15 noon
Guimbal Parish, Iloilo	6:30 a.m.
Alimodian Parish, Iloilo	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Makati	6:00 a.m.

Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

From his parents, brothers & sister

Always caring..
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
—2 Corinthians 5:4-5

TKC Steel Corporation
Application and Settlement Procedures for Local Small Investors

1. The Local Small Investors ("LSI") program will be managed by the Lead Underwriter, First Metro Investment Corporation together with First Metro Securities Brokerage Corporation and Citiseconline, who are tasked to receive LSI applications from 9:00 am November 6, 2007 to 12:00 nn of November 12, 2007.

2. Upon application, an LSI applicant is required to submit the following documents:
Four (4) copies of the fully accomplished TKC Steel Corporation Application to Subscribe/Purchase and one (1) copy of a duly executed signature card which can be secured from First Metro Investment Corporation, First Metro Securities Brokerage Corporation or Citiseconline.

FIRST METRO INVESTMTENT CORPORATION

Binondo
G/F Wellington Building
Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila
Tel Nos. 241 4301 to 07

Makati
20/F GT Tower International, Ayala Avenue
cor. H.V. Dela Costa Street, Makati City
Tel Nos. 840 5751 / 858 7900

FIRST METRO SECURITIES BROKERAGE CORPORATION

Unit 1515, 15/F Tower 1 & Exchange Plaza
Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas,
Makati City
Tel Nos. 759 4133 to 34 / 891 9514 to 17

CITISECONLINE

Unit 2703-C East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre,
Exchange Road Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Tel Nos. 633 3777

Photocopy of two (2) valid and current government-issued IDs (e.g., SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport or PRC). For joint accounts/multiple investors in one application, two (2) valid IDs per account/investor are also required.

Payment (cash or Metro Manila clearing check). All check payments must be made payable to "TKC FOO" and dated as of the date of submission of the application and crossed for deposit.

3. As required by the PSE for all subscribers to the FOO shares, LSI applicants should lodge his/her shares with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") and is required to nominate a PDTC participant (subject to the latter's confirmation) to whom his/her shares will be lodged. The broker is required to sign-off on the LSI's fully accomplished TKC Steel Corporation application to purchase.

4. Multiple bookings (two or more applications by the same applicant) will not be allowed. Each LSI applicant may subscribe to not more than PhP 25,000 worth of FOO shares.

5. The duly received and accepted application of the LSI applicant will be made available for distribution at the office where the applicant submitted his/her application three (3) trading days after listing date.

Prior to the release of the duly received and accepted application, an LSI applicant is required to present any valid ID for proper identification while the representative of the LSI applicant is required to present an authorization letter and proper identification documents.

IN 4 COPIES:
WHITE - Applicant
BLUE - Stock Transfer Agent
PINK - Lead Underwriter
YELLOW – Acknowledgment copy

No.

TKC STEEL

APPLICATION TO PURCHASE
Primary Offer of 235,000,000 Common Shares ("Offer Shares")

This Application Form, to be completed in four (4) copies, together with one (1) duly executed signature card, payment by appropriate check and all required attachments must be received by the Lead Underwriter not later than 12:00 n.n., Manila Time, on Thursday, November 15, 2007. Applications received thereafter or without the attachments specified below will be rejected. This Application is irrevocable and once received, may not be withdrawn by the Applicant.

TKC Steel Corporation ("TKC" or the "Company") through First Metro Investment Corporation (the "Lead Underwriter"), reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, this Application. Applications improperly or incompletely accomplished may be rejected. In case of over-subscription, the Company, by themselves or through the Lead Underwriter, reserves the right to allocate the Offer Shares available to Applicants in the manner they deem appropriate.

Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the final Prospectus dated November 08, 2007, filed by the Company with the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") on November 08, 2007 and uploaded on the PSE's website, as may be amended or supplemented.

An Application, once accepted and approved by the Company, through the Lead Underwriter, shall constitute a binding subscription and purchase agreement between the Company and the Applicant for the purchase of the Offer Shares at the time, in the manner, and subject to (a) the conditions set forth herein; (b) the Company's receipt of the appropriate payment from the Applicant; (c) the successful listing of the Offer Shares in the PSE; and (d) upon the underwriting and purchase obligations of the Lead Underwriter becoming unconditional and not being suspended, terminated or cancelled, on or before such listing.

APPLICATION

I/We apply to subscribe/purchase TKC STEEL CORPORATION Offer Shares under the terms and conditions stated herein and in the Prospectus for the Offer as follows

NUMBER OF OFFER SHARES*	PURCHASE PRICE PER OFFER SHARE	TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF OFFER SHARES (no. of Offer Shares x Price per Share)
	P 9.68	P

* All orders must be in minimum lot sizes of 1,000 Offer Shares. Incremental orders must be in lot sizes of 1,000 Offer Shares only.

Failure to follow these conditions may result in the scaling down or rejection of the Application

PDTC LODGEMENT

All Offer Shares shall be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC"). The Applicant must provide the information required for PDTC-lodged shares. The Offer Shares will be lodged by the Company with the PDTC on or before the Listing Date.

THE APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO FILL OUT THE INFORMATION BELOW. THE APPLICANT'S FAILURE TO DO SO OR THE PROVISION OF INCOMPLETE OR FALSE INFORMATION AS REQUIRED HEREIN, MAY LEAD TO THE REJECTION OF THIS APPLICATION. THE COMPANY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR SCALE-DOWN SUCH APPLICATION.

Information required for PDTC-lodged Offer Shares (to be completed with the assistance of the PDTC Participant appointed by the Applicant)	We confirm that we are a PDTC Participant and that the Applicant named in this Application is our *bona fide* client.
Stockbroker/PDTC Participant Firm, PDTC Participant Code, PDTC Sub-Account Code	Signature of Authorized Signatory of Stockbroker / PDTC Participant

PAYMENT

The Offer Shares must be paid for with check drawn against a bank account with a *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*-authorized agent bank or any branch thereof, located in Metro Manila. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the Application, and made payable to "TKC FOO".

TYPE OF CHECK	DRAWEE BANK/BRANCH	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT
☐ Personal ☐ Corporate ☐ Manager's / Cashier's			

REPRESENTATIONS WARRANTIES AND AUTHORIZATION

I/We represent and warrant that all information contained herein and the attached documents are true and correct. I/We warrant having read and understood and relied solely upon the provisions of the Prospectus and the terms and conditions stated within this Application, and unconditionally accept said terms and conditions. I/We understand that no person has been authorized to give information or to make any representation with respect to the Offer Shares other than those specified in the Prospectus. The Applicant hereby instructs and authorizes the Company and/or the Lead Underwriter to execute any application form or other documents and generally to do all such other things as the Company or the Lead Underwriter may consider necessary or desirable to effect the registration in the name of the Applicant of the Offer Shares applied for, or any lesser number in respect of which an Application may be accepted in the Stock and Transfer Book of the Offering Companies. The Applicant undertakes to sign all documents and to do all other acts necessary to enable the Applicant to be registered as the owner of the Offer Shares applied for or any lesser number in respect of which the Application may be accepted, subject to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Company and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

NAME OF APPLICANT (IN PRINT)	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT		DATE
ADDRESS	**NATIONALITY**	**TELEPHONE NUMBER/S**	**TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

ACKNOWLEDGMENT (Applicants should not fill in this section)

To be completed by the Trading Participant / Underwriter	To be completed by the Stock Transfer Agent for and on behalf of the Company
Application received. By: _____ Date/Time: _____ Name of Trading Participant/Underwriter and Authorized Signatory	Application accepted and approved by: Total Number of Offer Shares Accepted: _____ By: _____ Date: _____

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO THIS APPLICATION

For Individual Applicants (Please note that individual applicants are required to personally submit their applications):
- ☐ A duly executed signature card in the form attached to this Application;
- ☐ Photocopy of any two valid and current government issued identification (passport, driver's license, SSS, GSIS or PRC) with the Applicant's picture and signature;

For Corporate Applicants
- ☐ A duly executed signature card in the form attached to this Application;
- ☐ A certified true copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Applicant, duly certified by its corporate secretary;
- ☐ A certified true copy of the SEC Certificate of Registration of the Applicant, duly certified by its corporate secretary; and
- ☐ A duly notarized certificate of the Applicant's corporate secretary that sets out (a) the resolutions of the Applicant's Board of Directors or equivalent body authorizing the purchase of the Offer Shares subject of the Application and designating signatories for the purpose and (b) the specimen signature of such designated signatories.
- ☐ For foreign corporate and institutional Applicants of Offer Shares, in addition to the foregoing documents, a certification, representing and warranting that their investing in the Offer Shares will not violate the laws of their jurisdiction and that they are allowed to acquire, purchase and hold the Offer Shares

FOR CORPORATE APPLICANTS ONLY

COMPANY NAME :
ADDRESS :
T.I.N. :
TEL. NO. : E-MAIL:

List of officers authorized to sign and endorse stock certificates issued in the name of the Corporation:

We hereby declare under pain or perjury that all the information contained herein are true and correct of our personal knowledge.

Specimen Signatures

Name _____ 1) _____
Position _____ 2) _____

Name _____ 1) _____
Position _____ 2) _____

Name _____ 1) _____
Position _____ 2) _____

SIGNATURE/S VERIFIED BY CORPORATE SECRETARY:

_____
Signature over Printed Name

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SALE/PURCHASE OF OFFER SHARES IN TKC STEEL CORPORATION

The terms and conditions of the Offer are found in the Prospectus dated November 08, 2007. For a summary description of the Terms of the Offer, the Applicant is advised to refer to the section entitled "Summary of the Offer" in the Prospectus.

1. The Offer- The Offer, consisting of 235,000,000 Offer Shares to be issued and offered by TKC Steel Corporation. Of the total Offer Shares, 47,000,000 Offer Shares are being offered for distribution to the Trading Participants of the PSE. The 23,500,000 Offer Shares are being offered to the Local Small Investors ("LSI") of which 11,750,000 Offer Shares will be made available by the Trading Participants and the balance of 11,750,000 will be made available by the Lead Underwriter.

2. Eligible Investor - Investment in the Offer Shares is open to any person of legal age or duly organized and existing corporations, partnerships or other corporate entities regardless of nationality or citizenship.

3. Offer Price - The Offer Price for the Offer Shares is P 9.68 per Offer Share.

4. Offer Period - The Offer Period shall commence at 9 am on November 09, 2007 and shall close at 12 nn on November 15, 2007 for LSIs, PSE Trading Participants and investors. The Company and the Lead Underwriter hereby reserve the right to extend or terminate the Offer Period at any time, with the approval of the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission and Philippine Stock Exchange.

5. Subscription Amount - Applicants may subscribe to a minimum of 1,000 shares and, thereafter, multiples of 1,000 only. Any other order amount will be rejected.

6. Application and Acceptance - A duly and fully accomplished Application in four (4) copies together with one (1) duly executed signature card, payment by check drawn against a bank in Metro Manila and made payable to "TKC FOO", and required documents must be received by the Lead Underwriter and/or its designated receiving agent on or before close of the Offer Period. Multiple applications by one applicant will not be allowed.

TKC Steel Corporation, through the Lead Underwriter, reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any Application. Applications where checks are dishonored upon first presentation and Applications which do not comply with the terms of the Offer shall be rejected. Moreover, receipt of any payment pursuant to the Application does not mean approval or acceptance by the Company of the Application.

An application, once expressly accepted by the Company, through the Stock Transfer Agency in conformity with the Lead Underwriter, shall constitute a purchase agreement between the Company and the Applicant for the subscription to/purchase of the Offer Shares in the number approved by the Company at the time in the manner, and subject to the conditions found in the front portion of this Application.

7. Payment - The Total Purchase Price shall be paid in full in Philippine currency upon the submission of a duly executed Application, signature card, and other required documents. Applicants shall pay for the Offer Shares through a check drawn against a bank account with a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ("BSP")-authorized agent bank or any branch thereof, located in Metro Manila. Checks should be dated as of the date of submission of the Application, made payable to "TKC FOO", and crossed "Payee's Account Only".

8. Issue Taxes - All standard taxes applicable to the issuance of the Offer Shares pursuant to the Offer shall be for the sole account of the Company.

9. Refunds - In the event that an Application is rejected, then the Company shall refund, without interest, within five Banking Days from the end of the Offer Period. All refunds shall be made through the Lead Underwriter or Selling Agent with whom the applicant has filed the Application, at the applicant's risk.

10. PDTC Lodgement - All of the Offer Shares will be lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corp. ("PDTC") on or before the Listing Date. The Applicant must provide the additional information required for PDTC-lodged Offer Shares.

11. Issuance and Delivery of Stock Certificates - The Applicant may request his/her ownership of the Offer Shares to be evidenced by stock certificates issued in his/her name as evidence of ownership through his/her broker only after the Offer Shares have been listed. The cost of the issuance of stock certificates shall be for the account of the Applicant.

12. Registration of Foreign Investments - The BSP requires that investments in shares of stock funded by inward remittance of foreign currency be registered with the BSP if the foreign exchange needed to service capital repatriation or dividend remittance with be sourced from the banking system. The registration with the BSP of all foreign investments in the Offer Shares shall be the responsibility of the foreign investor.

13. Representation and Warranty of Foreign Investors in the Offer Shares- Applicants who are not Philippine citizens or which are corporations that are not Philippine nationals represent and warrant that their investment in the Offer Shares being applied for will not violate the rules of their respective jurisdictions, and that acquiring and investing in the Offer Shares are permitted in such jurisdictions. The Offer Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, "U.S. Persons" (as defined in Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended).

14. Timetable

Start of Offer Period	9:00 am, November 09, 2007
Deadline for Submission of Applications	11:00 am, November 15, 2007
End of the Offer Period	12:00 nn, November 15, 2007
Listing Date and Commencement of Trading of the Common Shares on the PSE	November 23, 2007

15. Local Small Investors
The term "Local Small Investors" is defined as a share subscriber or share purchaser who is willing to subscribe or purchase a minimum board lot or whose subscription or purchase does not exceed P25,000. Should the total demand for the Offer Shares in the Local Small Investors' subscription exceed the maximum allocation, the Lead Underwriter shall allocate the Offer Shares by balloting. Should the total demand from Local Small Investors be less than the 10% allotted to them, the unsold allocation shall be reallocated back for distribution to the general public.

An interested Local Small Investor may secure the Application and signature card from the Lead Underwriter and submit 4 copies of the Application (1 original and 3 copies), a duly executed signature card and photocopies of 2 valid and current government-issued IDs (e.g. SSS, GSIS, Driver's License, Passport, and PRC). The Local Small Investor should submit the required documents and payment to the Lead Underwriter on or before the close of the Offer.

TKC STEEL

SPECIMEN SIGNATURE CARD

Account Code: _____
INDIVIDUAL ◯ CORPORATE ◯

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED. Any alteration in the signature card must be signed in full by the applicant.

For individual applicants only: (For corporate applicants, use reverse side.)

Full Name _____
(Surname) (First Name) (Middle Name)

Complete Mailing Address _____

BIRTHDATE	TEL. NO.
T.I.N.	CITIZENSHIP

For Applicants with no T.I.N, please make sure to indicate your birthdate in this signature card.

Specimen Signatures for Individual Applicants:

I hereby declare under paid of perjury that all the information contained herein are true and correct of my own personal knowledge.

1) _____ 2) _____

Important: Certificates will not be transferred unless a specimen signature of the stockholders is on file with the Stock Transfer Agent of the Company. For your protection, please fill out this card and return to.

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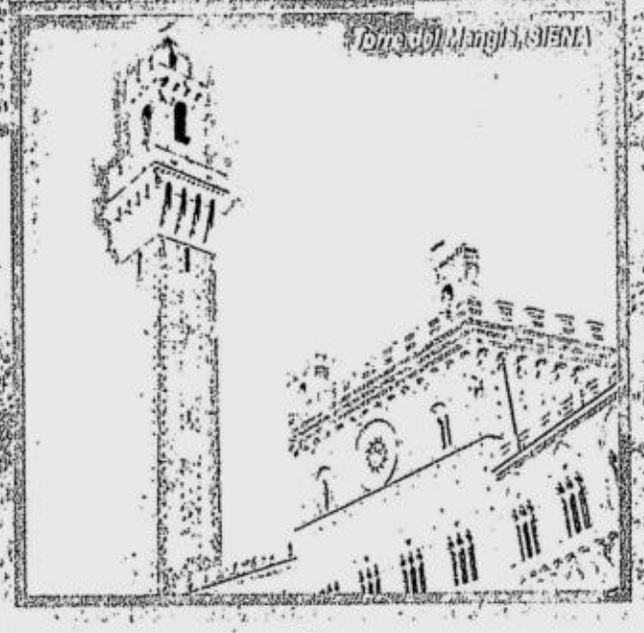

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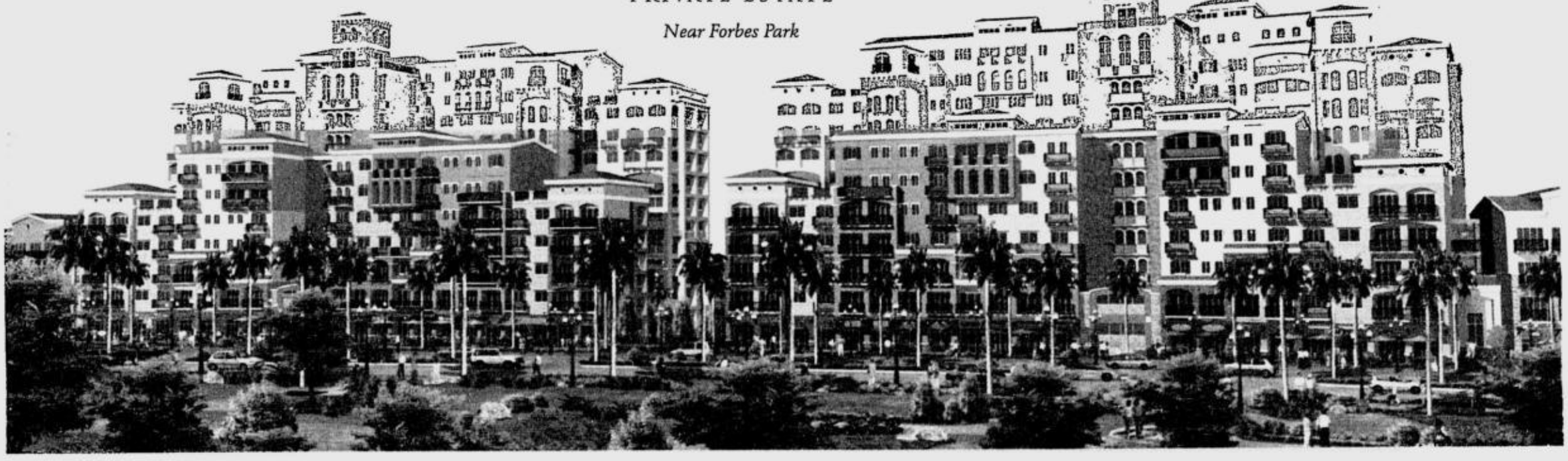

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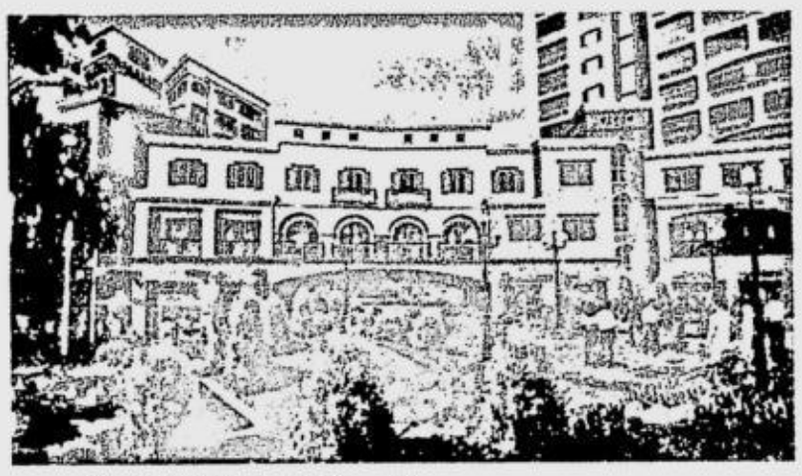
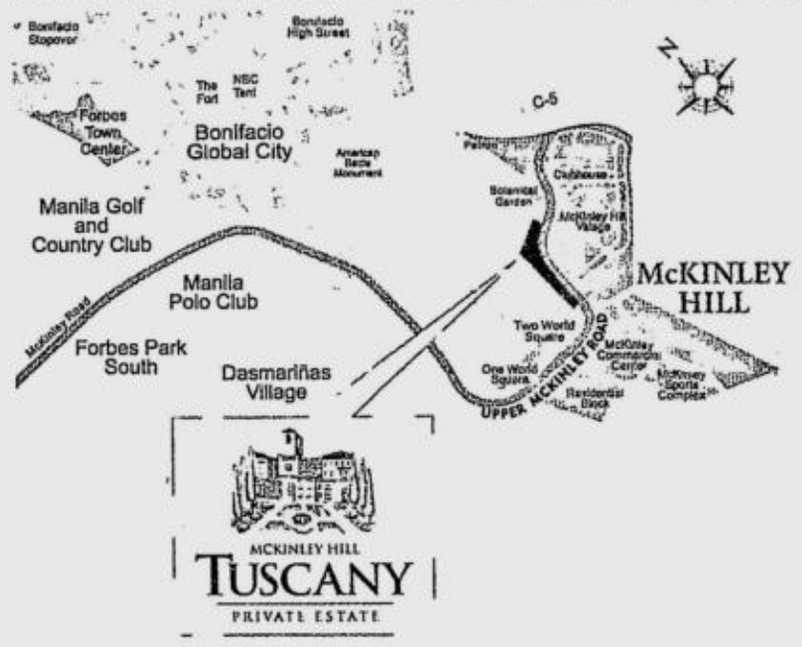
The Tuscany Private Estate at McKinley Hill.





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Saving the terraces in style

Through ecocultural trips, tourists get to enjoy the sights in Ifugao and realize why it's worth preserving a natural wonder

A PEACE CORPS volunteer learns from the little master PHOTOS BY JEROME DUMLAO

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

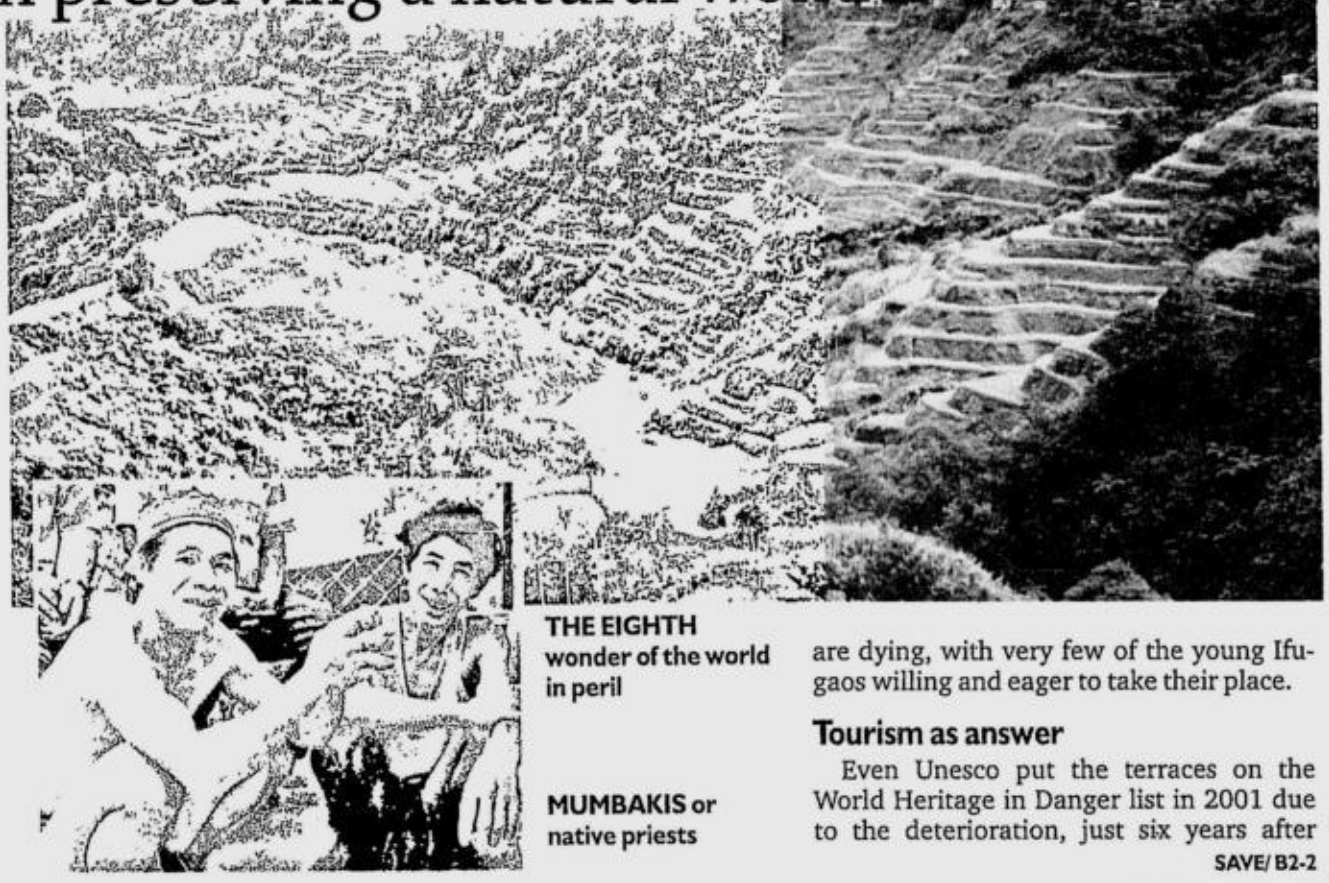
IFUGAO rice god

FILIPINOS WERE JUSTIfiably proud when the majestic Ifugao rice terraces were included in the list of "1,000 Places to See Before You Die" compiled by best-selling travel writer Patricia Schultz.

Travelers, however, will have to hurry up and make the trip because the expansive terraces—declared a world heritage site by Unesco—are slowly, but surely, dying.

Many factors have been cited for the painful deterioration of the terraces: the abandonment of the terraces by the new generations of Ifugaos for better-paying jobs in the lowlands and even abroad, the conversion of some paddies into vegetable farms, and even pest infestation.

In addition, the elders who carry with them the traditional knowledge and skills in terracing and taking care of the paddies are dying, with very few of the young Ifugaos willing and eager to take their place.



THE EIGHTH wonder of the world in peril

MUMBAKIS or native priests

Tourism as answer

Even Unesco put the terraces on the World Heritage in Danger list in 2001 due to the deterioration, just six years after

SAVE/ B2-2

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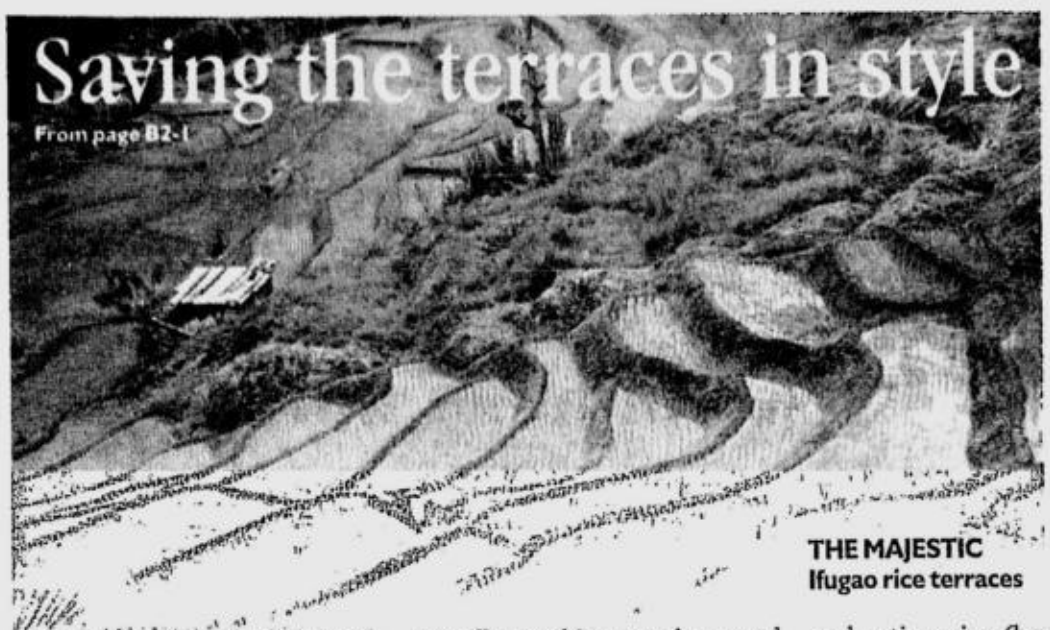
Saving the terraces in style

From page B2-1



THE MAJESTIC Ifugao rice terraces

YOUNG Ifugaos carry on the tradition

these were declared a living cultural landscape.

What then will encourage Ifugaos to stay and care for their precious paddies handed down from generation to generation?

The Save the Rice Terraces Movement wrestled with this question and found the obvious answer in tourism, one that is not just about seeing the sights, but actually getting visitors to experience the culture that makes the mountain province of Ifugao unique.

Since last year, the 7-year-old group has been organizing small ecocultural tours to Ifugao, 317 kilometers north of Metro Manila, to encourage popular support to its noble cause to preserve the rice terraces and the rich Ifugao culture.

There are no professional tourist guides reciting a string of facts to a bored audience, rather young Ifugao volunteers eager to share their way of life to their many visitors.

Ifugao Gov. Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr. believes that by attracting throngs of ecotourists to Ifugao in time for the key events in the rice terraces planting and harvesting cycle, the locals will be encouraged to preserve their terraces and heritage for new generations to enjoy.

The tourists, on the other hand, will bring home with them an experience of not only seeing the majestic terraces, but actually working on them and observe firsthand the rich Ifugao culture that has nurtured the terraces for thousands of years.

Eco-cultural trips

An intrepid group of 87 students, nongovernment organization workers and seasoned travelers were the first to enjoy such an eco-cultural trip when they took part in the inaugural Bakle'd Kiangan held in August last year.

The Bakle'd Kiangan festival held in the village of Julongan in the old Ifugao capital of Kiangan seeks to show the world how Ifugaos perform their thanksgiving ritual for a bountiful harvest.

It starts with a mumbaki (native priest) garbed in the traditional red and black loincloth chanting thanksgiving prayers with the natives with a chicken and native wine (baya) given as sacrifice and offering to the gods such as the bulul or rice god.

TOURISTS eat with the Ifugaos

The mumbaki will then slit open the chicken and inspect the gall bladder with the natives gathering round with bated breath to read the fortune it tells.

They all want to see a bright green gall bladder because it means more good luck ahead for the Ifugaos, who have managed to keep their cultural identity alive despite the steady march of modernization.

Cheers erupt all around when the mumbaki declares a good omen, and it is immediately followed by the distribution of the bakle'd (native rice cake) and the pounding of native cymbals and gongs that both young and old Ifugaos dance to.

Ecotourists taking part in the tour get the chance to try their hand at dancing Ifugao style, with the fiery native wine providing enough kick to lower inhibitions.

Ifugao hospitality

Come bedtime, guests get the sample Ifugao hospitality, which is as warm as advertised with the natives opening up their homes with a view of the rice terraces, and giving their best room and food to guests.

For those lucky enough, they can get to stay in a traditional Ifugao house, which today's engineers admire for its efficiency.

MUMBAKIS inspect the chicken's gall bladder

The one-room wooden house on stilts and a thatched roof has enough room to store produce, rice and the family's other worldly possessions.

It is usually decorated by mounted skulls of animals, to demonstrate the hunting prowess of the master of the house.

The design has not changed over the ages, and a much-talked about features are the two-inch thick wooden discs between the stilts and the house's floor, which are not there for design, but rather to keep out rats and other pests.

These are just some facets of the Ifugao culture that an increasing band of ecotourists know first hand through the ecocultural tours.

The Bakle'd Kiangan was followed by the Lodah tour in October where participants got to help restore the borders of the rice terraces.

In January this year, over 57 participants took part in the Tunod Ad Hungduan, which was timed with the planting of the Ifugao tinawon rice in the municipality of Hungduan, home of one of the most picturesque terraces in Ifugao.

It was followed in April by the Tagtag Ad Asipulo (ritual to protect the rice crop) in Asipulo, and in June by the Bfoto' Ad Majawjaw in the municipality of Mayoyao to celebrate the rice harvest.

The tour schedule came full circle in August with the Bakle'd Kiangan.

In all of these tours, part of the proceeds of the rice cycle tours goes directly to the host municipalities to help the people promote and preserve their indigenous culture.

Logical strategy

Baguilat said tourism was a logical strategy to take for socioeconomic development because Ifugao has a lot to offer. There are terraces in other parts of the Cordillera, but none as extensive and as varied as in this province.

The terrace system in the municipality of Batad is shaped like an amphitheater; Bangaan's is shaped like a pot; Nagacadan has one of the few stone-walled terrace clusters; Mayoyao's has high walls and narrow paddies while Hungduan's has a spider web foundation, with the terraces located in grasslands with patches of muyong or private forests.

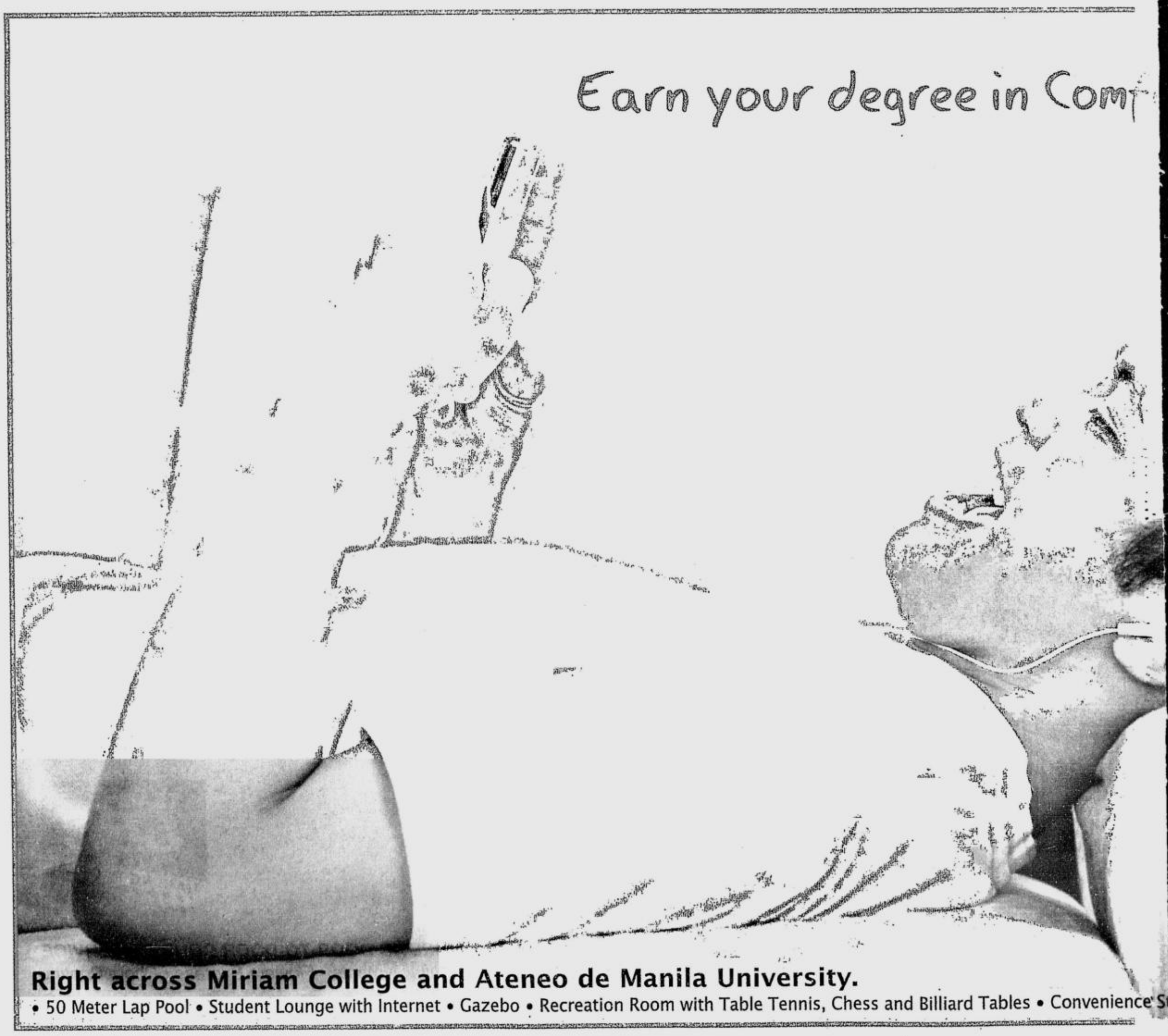
"We are happy that with the tours, we have been able to provide extra employment to out-of-school youth who act as guides, and added income to the host municipalities," Baguilat said.

Honeymoon sojourn

He added that as word of the Sitmo tours got around, different groups have called up to ask Sitmo for special tours.

A couple from France, for instance, asked for a honeymoon sojourn in Batad and in nearby Sagada and a group of engineering students from Manila asked to talk to an elder with insights on how the terraces were made.

"In the future, we will be putting in place legislation so that the provincial government can adopt the tours as part of our economic strategy for the province," Baguilat said. *(For more information on the Sitmo tours, call Jonathan Martin at 0906-8093662).*



Historic hotels in US given second chance to serve guests

ATLANTA—ELAINE HERNANDO PLANNED TO stay in one of the city's big-box hotels, but when she saw The Ellis, she canceled her reservation and booked a room at the renovated historic hotel instead.

On the outside, the 15-floor hotel retains its stately.1913 architecture, complete with a traditional open-air balcony on the second floor that was a must for elegant Southern hotels in the era before air-conditioning.

Inside, however, the hotel rooms boast 21st century comforts, including plush beds, flat-screen TVs and even a place to play music from iPods.

"I really like boutique hotels—we travel a lot for work," said Hernando, a 30-year-old sales representative from Los Angeles. "I loved being there—the windows have a really great view; the iPod dock, that was cool."

Across the United States, hoteliers are seeking to breathe new life into older properties.

Detroit's Book-Cadillac Hotel—built in 1924—is being restored to open late next year as the 455-room Westin Book Cadillac Detroit. In its glory years, the hotel hosted Presidents John F. Kennedy and Harry S. Truman, but it stood vacant for more than two decades before the renovations began.

The spacious lobby of Oklahoma City's Skirvin Hotel became a place where oil tycoons met politicians after it was built in 1911. It also sat empty for nearly 20 years until February when it reopened after a $55-million renovation as the Skirvin Hilton, complete with 29 hand-carved Bacchus busts, accented by gold leafing, that peer from the hotel's pillars.

In Seattle, a $10-million renovation was just completed for the century-old Alexis Hotel and in Boston, the Charles Street Jail—built in 1851 and once tagged by officials as "unfit for human living"—is now The Liberty Hotel.

"There's a trend, generally in the travel industry, for people wanting to make every part of their trip a unique experience and I think hotels are really responsive to that by providing ... a little more personality and a unique experience," said Peter J. Frank, editor in chief of the luxury travel website concierge.com.

Frank said the renovations also provide a new look for the hotels, which are trying to attract luxury customers. Rooms in The Alexis Hotel, which was built in 1901, for example, feature stainless steel four-poster beds, rococo mirrors, 300-thread-count sheets and high-definition televisions.

Before Atlanta's Ellis Hotel underwent a $28-million renovation and reopened for business in October, the building had been vacant for a few decades, never able to shake its image as the site of the deadliest hotel fire in US history. It previously was the Winecoff Hotel, where a fire erupted in 1946, killing 119 people.

But owner Susan Griffin said she saw the value of restoring a historic hotel on downtown Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street.

"We're turning a new page in history ... page one of a new story of a beautiful, stately hotel in Atlanta," Griffin said.

In Boston, the former jail had been abandoned for about a decade after previous attempts to use the space for offices failed.

"It's a great location, at the foot of Beacon Hill, one of Boston's premier residential areas," said Gary Johnson, lead architect for The Liberty Hotel project. "Most people in Boston have never set foot in the building until now."

Keeping with the history of the space, jail cells appear in the hotel's restaurants and bars and guests pass five cells on the way to the elevators. Developers, of course, brought down the jail's former 18-foot-high perimeter wall.

"Nobody's hiding the fact it was a jail. In fact, we're celebrating that," Johnson said. "The building was once a social reform place. Now it's social in the friendly sense of the word."

PEDESTRIANS walk past the Ellis hotel (left), a recently renovated historic hotel. The building had been vacant for decades. AP

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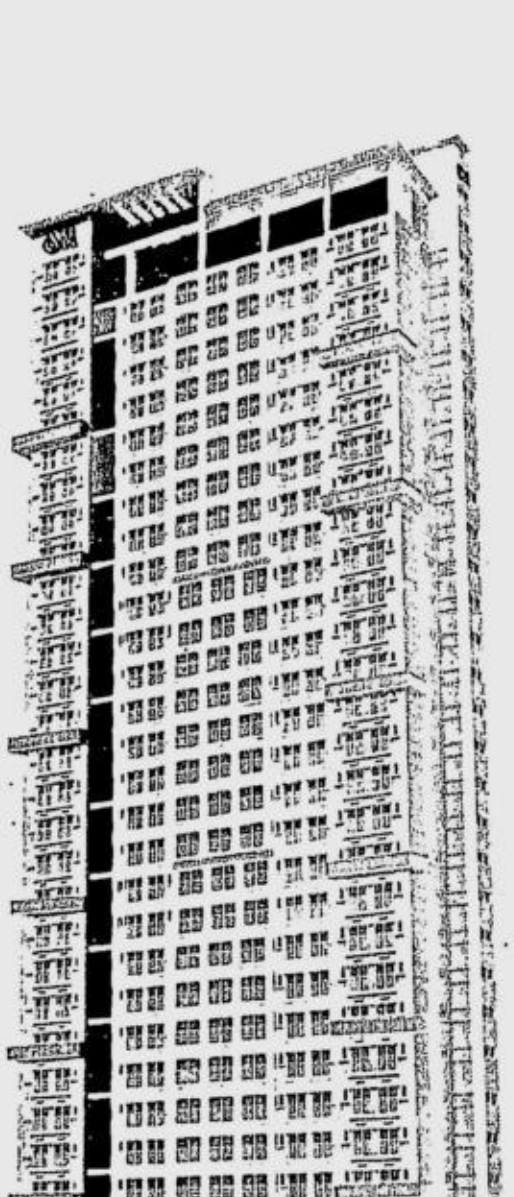

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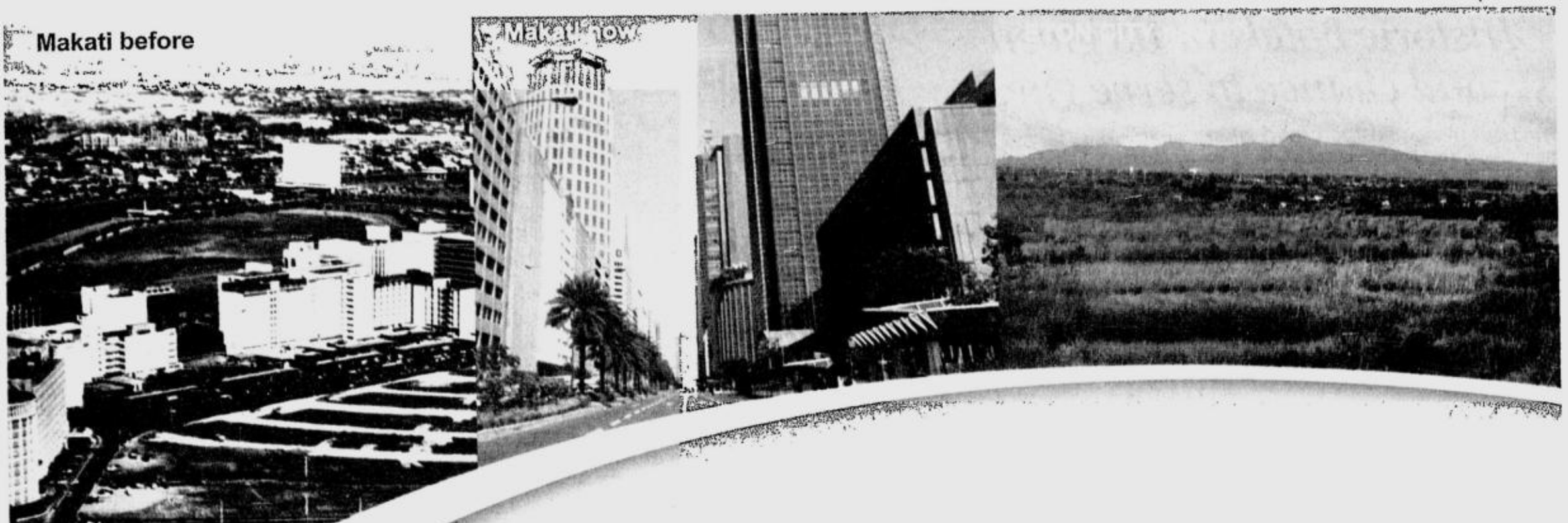

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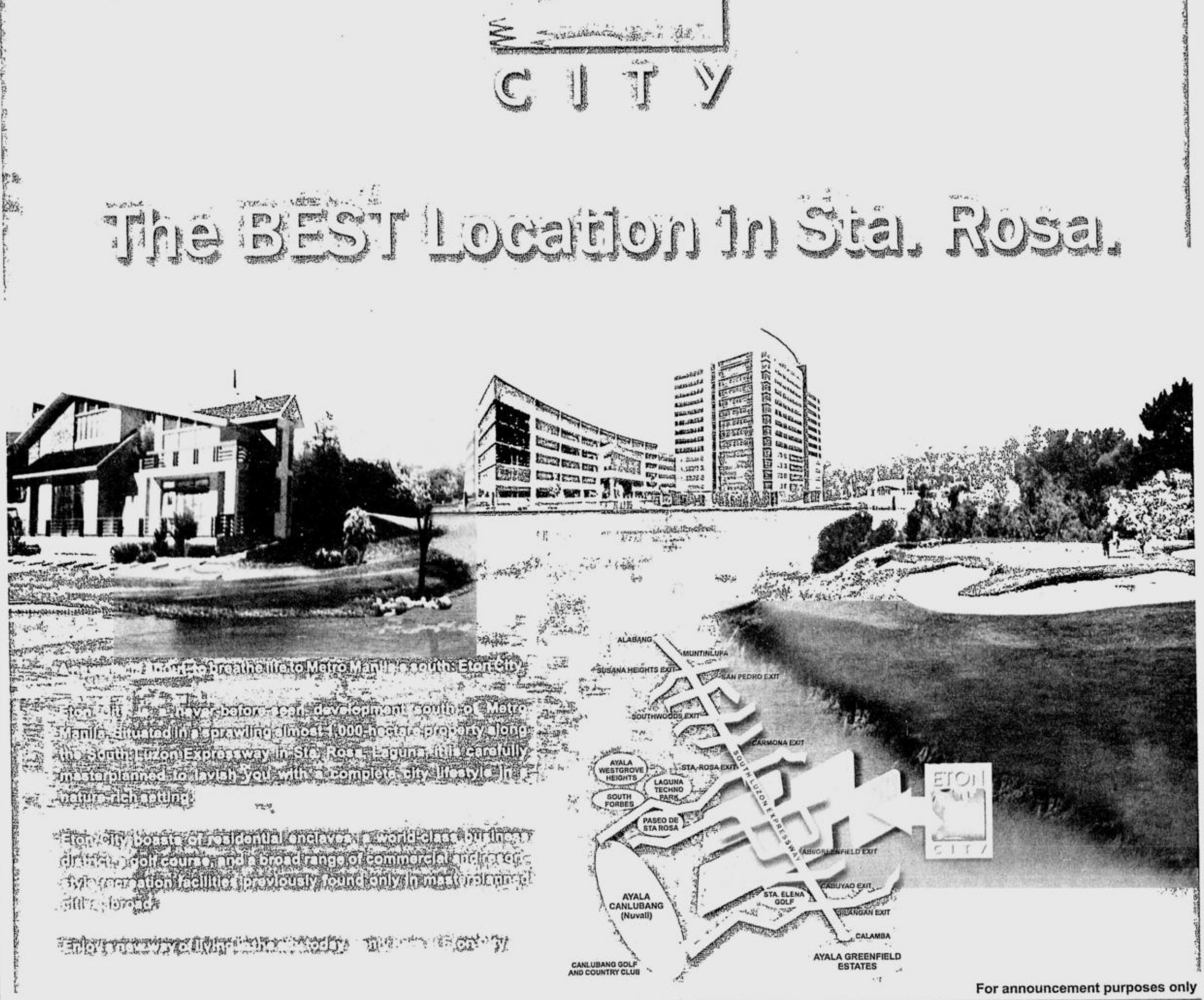

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
BUSINESS Monday

Back to farming

He ran away from backbreaking farm job, only to get back to it ... and see his prospects bloom

By Amy R. Remo

ROMEO Vasquez and his family show Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap their yield from hybrid rice.

BORN TO A FARMING FAMILY in Isabela, Romeo "Romy" Vasquez knew first hand the difficulties of rural farming life.

It was for this reason that he left home in search of a better life in Manila, even if he had earned a college degree in agriculture in his hometown.

Little did he know that several years down the road, it would be that hard farming life which would lift him and his family out of poverty.

Vasquez, 45, recalled that life for him was not easy when he was younger.

He related that they did not have any farm to call their own because his father, Modesto Jr., was just a tenant cultivating a 1.6-hectare field.

This situation, however, did not hinder his parents from sending them to school. Out of six siblings, five of them finished with a degree in agriculture.

But Vasquez yearned for more.

After graduating from college, Vasquez went to Manila and worked for 10 years as sales representative of a fertilizer and pesticide company.

He saved all the money he got from company incentives, such as commissions and bonuses, for his wife and children.

Unfortunately, Vasquez lost his job when the firm retrenched workers. He then tried his luck as a passenger jeepney driver for six months.

"As a driver, I had so much difficulties figuring out how to make both ends meet to support my family's needs," he related.

What made life even more difficult for Vasquez was his bout with cancer. He said his left leg was amputated in 1985 because of a malignant tumor.

"Armed with my measly savings and background in agriculture, I decided to go back home and start farming in 1993," Vasquez said.

Back to farming

He started planting rice to half of the 1.6-ha farm that his father was cultivating.

Fortunately, he was able to expand his rice field through an additional 2 hectares of land, which was mortgaged to him.

But despite having relatively good harvests, Vasquez found that high production costs actually killed his chances of earning more, especially since he had been using traditional farming practices.

"I was only harvesting 80 cavans per hectare, which was already good back then. But I really didn't know how to improve my farming practices," he said.

Vasquez began attending free seminars and training sessions held by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Training Institute, Philippine Rice Research Institute and local governments to equip himself of new farming technologies.

Soon enough, Vasquez learned about inbred rice seed production, enabling him to produce his own seeds so he would not have to buy them.

This had significantly cut down his production costs.

"By using my own quality seeds, I was able to sell my produce at a much higher price than my usual harvest," he said.

Add to that, Vasquez was one of the few farmers who took the chance on hybrid rice in 2001, saying that this "new technology could change a farmer's perception of rice planting."

Misses and failures

While he had his share of misses and failures in hybrid technology early on, Vasquez said he still firmly believed that the hybrid rice technology would help him increase both his yield and income.

Since then, his yield from the hybrid rice seed production and cultivation greatly improved.

Now, Vasquez gets an average net income of P50,000 a hectare every cropping season.

Vasquez said this technology had given farmers a yield of 180 cav/ha or 9 metric tons per hectare as compared to the 80-100 cav/ha (4-5 mt/ha) they get from inbred rice varieties.

"Being one of the national hybrid rice movers of the DA gave me a chance to travel to different parts of the country to assist in informing the public on the benefits of using the hybrid rice technology," Vasquez said.

With his story, he said he wanted other farmers to know that with "hardwork and perseverance, they can achieve anything even with limited resources as I have experienced."

On the average, Vasquez said he sells and delivers 2,000 25-kg bags every month directly to

BACK/ B3-3

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Apple unleashes the next big cat

By Raquel P. Gomez

IF APPLE COULD SING A tune to describe its newly launched operating system, the Mac OS X Leopard, for its full range of Macs—iMacs, Macbook and Mac Pro—it would have to be Britney Spears' "Ooops, I did it again!"

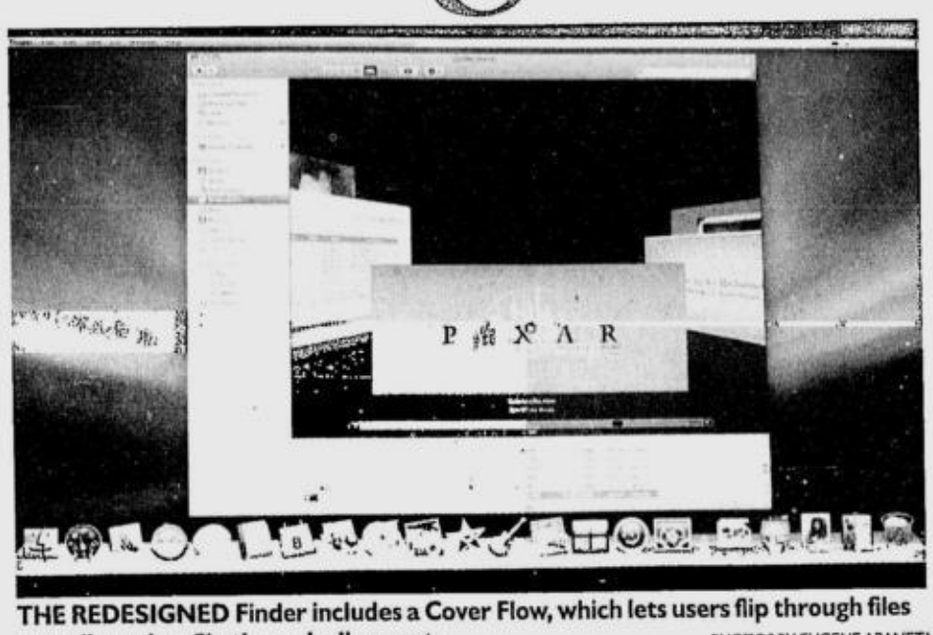
The company, known for consumer digital lifestyle products, has finally launched the most anticipated operating system (OS)—its sixth generation upgrade to the much praised and successful Mac OS X Tiger launched two years ago.

The Mac OS X Leopard has been described as the "best upgrade ever." It boasts of 300 new features that will surely make every Mac lover happier, and non-Mac user envious, according to Darren Sng, Apple's senior product marketing manager Asia Pacific region.

The top features of Mac's new operating system include a "redesigned" Finder, Stacks, Quick Look, Spaces, Time Machine and enhanced Mail and iChat.

The redesigned Finder lets users quickly browse and share files with multiple Macs. It also includes a Cover Flow similar to iTunes' interface, which lets users see files in the Finder as they really look. You can also flip through the files as easily as flipping through album art in iTunes.

If you want to view the files you're flipping through, you can activate them from the Finder via the Quick Look feature, which literally gives a sneak peek of the entire gamut of files—even multiple-page documents, spreadsheets, PDFs, and videos—without opening them in the applications that created them.



THE REDESIGNED Finder includes a Cover Flow, which lets users flip through files as easily as they flip through album art. PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

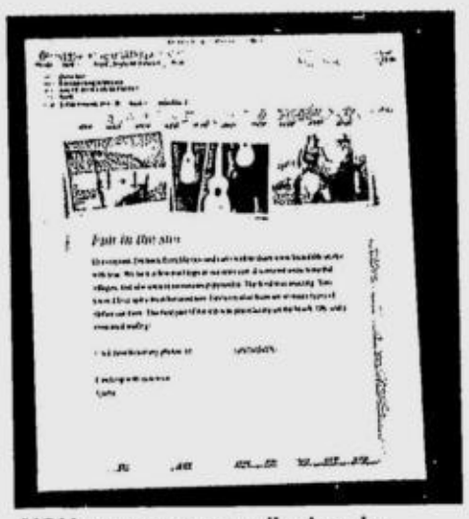
The Stacks feature is a new way to easily access files from the Dock, Mac OS' graphical user interface (GUI) located below the screen used to launch applications, and switch between running applications. Stacks helps users get fully organized as this feature eliminates clutter on the desktop.

Simply drag your file folder to the Dock area and automatically "stacks," or a lineup of contents in that folder, are flashed once you put the cursor on to that files folder icon. The stacks or lineup of contents, which are miniature representations of the actual files, can be arranged either as a grid view or fan view.

Time Machine is for people who are lazy in backing up files which, statistically speaking, represent majority of computer users. This feature lets users easily back up all data on their Mac, find lost files, and even restore all of the software on their Mac.

"All you need to do is click the icon 'Time Machine' and the feature automatically keeps an up-to-date copy of everything on the Mac," says Sng. "To look for a lost or deleted file, you can manually scroll the timeline to get to the date or year the file was created or seen, or you can allow the Time Machine to do the process by clicking the arrow at the bottom of the screen and this brings you back to the time the file was created. And once you find the file, you just click Restore and the file is brought back to present time."

Spaces allows for groupings of applications on several "virtual desktops," or desk spaces onscreen, which users can easily switch to back and forth with a click of the mouse or keyboard.



YOU may create e-mail using nice stationery designs.

For example, you can group in one desktop or "space" all the applications that you use for work and, on another desktop, all the applications that you use for Internet, music and video.

Safari Web browser has been enhanced to allow users to create "widgets" or icons of your favorite Websites that you can put and activate on the Dashboard, a Mac OS feature that allows for miniature programs called "widgets" to be superimposed over the desktop. When activated, the Dashboard with all your favorite widgets "flies" onscreen.

Mail feature is greatly improved by allowing users to create interesting and fascinating e-mails with nice stationery designs and layouts. Pick your choice—greeting card, postcard, or poster. Since layouts are written in universal HTML, PC users will receive the e-mail of your wonderful greeting card.

Another interesting feature of the Mail is its ability to do notes or lists, which you can e-mail to your personal e-mail account as sort of reminder. Mail also features data detectors, which can read schedules and contact information in your e-mail, and syncs them up with the iCal, or your calendar and address book.

iChat, Mac OS instant messaging feature, has new elements, such as the iChat Theater that allows users to share photos, videos, music and files.

"Collaborative work can be done between two parties with screen sharing capability of iChat," says Sng. "From your Mac, you can actually get the other party's Mac screen, move around and launch applications on his desktop and even edit his files or documents. You can have full control of the other party's screen."

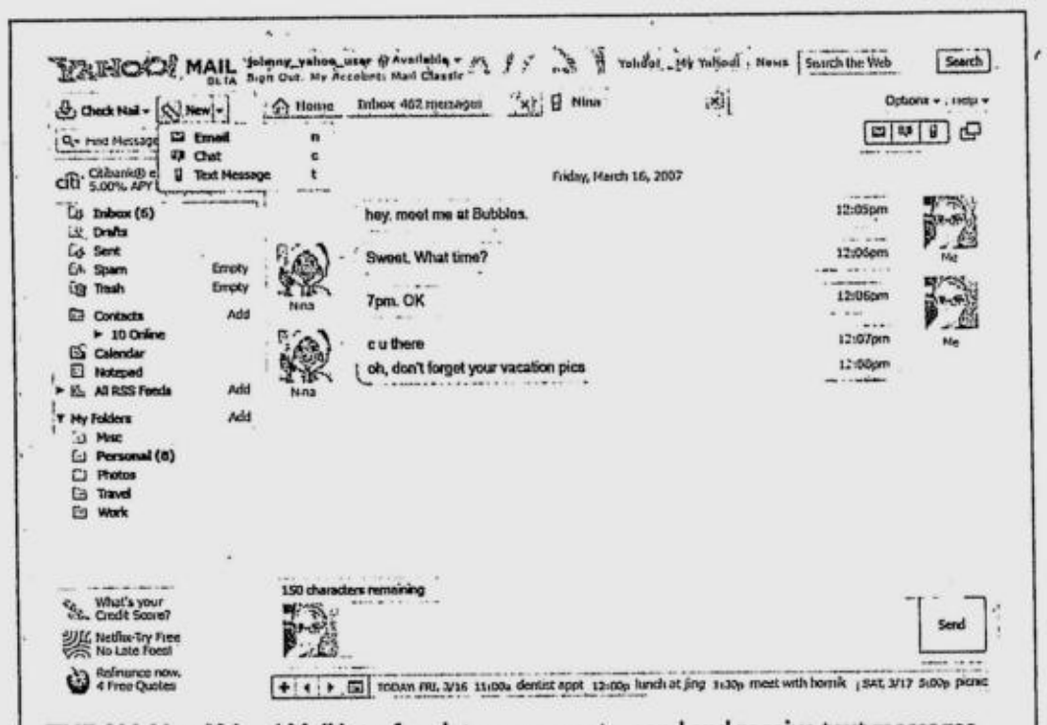
With the improved iChat, a user can also change the background of the place from where the chat is being done with the Backdrop feature. Other additions include enhancement of the Spotlight, the powerful Mac OS search feature introduced in Tiger, which can now search files not only in one Mac but in several Macs in a network.

The latest Bootcamp software, which allows for the installation and running of Windows OS and applications in a Mac system, now comes with the Leopard package, which is good news to Mac switchers who still want to dabble in a Windows setting.

Leopard's overall appearance is a departure from Tiger's look as the blue screen has been replaced by a nebulous starry midnight sky appearance. The new desktop also hosts a semitransparent menu bar and a reflective 3D Dock. This look of Leopard extends to all applications, and every window has a consistent design theme, with active applications more distinct with shadows.

Leopard, an Open Brand UNIX 03 registered product on the Intel platform, supports Macs running on PowerPCs and Intel or with these specs: Intel, Power PC G5, Power PC G4 (867 MHZ), 512 MB memory, DVD drive for installation, and 9 GB free space. The ultimate version retails at P7,690, and the family pack at P11,990.

Since Oct. 26, when the Leopard debuted worldwide, critics are one in saying that this is the best OS in the market today, again casting a shadow over Microsoft's new OS, the Windows Vista.



THE ALL New Yahoo! Mail interface lets users create, send and receive text messages without leaving the mail client.

Text through Yahoo! Mail for free!

By Riza T. Olchondra

NEED TO SEND AND RECEIVE TEXT messages for free?

Why not try Yahoo! Mail?

Internet search giant Yahoo!, which is staging the Mobile Asia Congress in China next week, has tweaked Yahoo! Mail to allow users to send free messages to Smart or Globe subscribers.

Simply upgrade your Yahoo! Mail Classic to the new Yahoo! Mail. Compose a new e-mail, tag it as "text message" and then type in the recipient's mobile number where the e-mail address used to be. The recipient receives the message almost as soon as you click on the "Send" button!

The service will surely bring time and "load" savings to 14 million Filipinos using the Internet, 85 percent of whom use Yahoo! e-mail.

"We are initially offering this service to only four markets: the Philippines, Canada, USA and India," said Jojo Anonuevo, Yahoo! senior director of business development. "There is no doubt that the Philippines is the SMS capital of the world, with more than 500 million text messages being sent every day. Yahoo! knows the crucial role that SMS has in communication among Filipinos."

Soon, Yahoo! Mail will be launched in 25 markets around the world, Anonuevo also told the INQUIRER via e-mail.

Both Smart and Globe welcomed the service, saying it gives various providers and their respective subscribers a win-win situation.

"There are already a number of services where all networks can participate," said Ramon Isberto on behalf of Smart Communications Inc. "Yahoo has a huge user base who also happen to be cell phone users. So, this is a case where that (non-exclusivity) makes sense."

Also, Globe spokesperson Jones Campos said Yahoo! has been providing a "good service for [Globe] subscribers."

"Ever since we pioneered the partnership with Yahoo!, we have been very pleased with the results," Campos added.

To prevent spam, the recipient of a Yahoo! Mail SMS message is asked whether he wants to receive the text. Yahoo! also limits outbound messages. Yahoo! Mail users can only send four text messages for every one mobile reply. In addition, Yahoo! Mail users cannot send to multiple recipients at the same time because each receiver has to reply before receiving any more messages.

All messages going in and out of Yahoo! Mail are free. There is a limit of 160 characters per message. But it costs P2 for Smart users and P2.50 for Globe users to reply.

Aside from messaging to mobile, the new Yahoo! Mail allows users to send Instant Messages to any contact who is online, either by using Yahoo! Mail or Yahoo! Messenger.

Hitachi's CinemaStar plays lead role in digital video recorders

DEBUTING RECENTLY, THE newest members of Hitachi GST's CinemaStar™ cast of hard drives are ready for their close-up.

Hitachi is offering multiple form factors to address a wide variety of needs in the growing consumer electronics market. A 3.5-inch drive with capacities of up to 500 gigabyte (GB) provides industry-best power utilization and performance, while the more compact 2.5-inch drive is suited for use in sleek set-top boxes and portable digital video devices. Both are based on a design crafted especially for the unique demands of recording and playback of audio/video content.

The abundance of digital video has been fueling consumer demand for digital video recorders (DVRs) with more storage capacity and slim, space-saving designs. The CinemaStar C5K250 and P7K500 are the latest in a long line of Hitachi drives, especially made for home entertainment applications.

The 2.5-inch CinemaStar C5K250 is designed to meet the needs of manufacturers who wish to offer video recording and playback features in small form factors. The drive uses the same SmoothStream™ technology as its larger 3.5-inch CinemaStar "sibling," but it comes smaller in size, with low power requirement and quiet acoustics. It has a capacity of up to 250 GB.

The Hitachi CinemaStar C5K250 ensures customers of lower power usage without compromising the smooth digital video experience that people expect. The drive is designed to switch to a 0.55 watt idle power mode if recording or playback pauses for longer periods. The CinemaStar C5K250's low-power profile also means the drive requires smaller power supplies and less cooling, which may help extend the life of the hard drive, the host product, as well as the surrounding devices in a typical entertainment cabinet.

The 3.5-inch CinemaStar P7K500 is a family of drives designed to provide high capacity and high performance for full-featured set-top boxes or DVRs with multi-streaming functionality.

This family of drives makes it possible for DVR manufacturers to broaden their product offerings to cover the entire spectrum of customer needs—from very high capacity, high performance multifunction systems to more economical units. This flexibility allows consumer electronics developers to select the CinemaStar drive that meets the cost and performance/capacity requirements of their entire product portfolio. The new drives are based on Hitachi's recently-introduced Deskstar P7K500, which are extremely frugal on power consumption.

It offers a special feature called AV-Zoning, which allows data recovery procedures to be defined differently for multiple partitions in the same drive. This means, critical system data can be differentiated from time critical video content, which may not require the same stringent data recovery measures.

With a capacity of 500 GB, the CinemaStar P7K500 can store up to 178 movies, 125,000 four-minute songs and 250 video games.

Because AV systems play and record streams of data, they place very different demands on a hard drive than those found in traditional IT and computing applications. If the stream is interrupted, it may result in missing audio or video information, creating an unacceptable delay. These concerns are addressed by CinemaStar C5K250 and P7K500 that feature Hitachi's patented and innovative SmoothStream technology, which delivers an integrated set of features and functions that enable hard disk drives to perform optimally in audio/video (AV) applications.

Hitachi SmoothStream technology enables a host device to control the drive's error recovery processes. This feature tunes the drive to capture video data streams on a command by command basis, allowing integrators to mix different AV and IT applications in the same platform.

The new video-tuned hard drives bring together a number of consumer electronics-specific features and benefits, including:

• Smart Command Transport and adaptive error recovery for optimized video streaming and picture quality;

—AV-Zoning allows manufacturers to configure unique data recovery procedures to help ensure uninterrupted video playback2;

—Silent-seek acoustics for bedroom-quiet operation;

—Advanced power management features enable the drives to run cooler and use less power;

—Fast spin up times provide efficient reading/writing of data during digital video recording and playback;

— Choice of either Parallel ATA or Serial ATA interfaces for design flexibility.

CINEMASTAR 3.5 and 2.5

Is outsourcing growth tapering off?

IN ITS 2006 GLOBAL IT OUTSOURcing Study, Chicago-based Diamond Management and Technology Consultants somberly reports that the Information Technology Outsourcing (ITO) boom "appears to be over."

At the recently concluded MAP CEO Conference, Brian Tumpowsky, a principal of the firm and co-author of the study, outlined the effects the slowdown of spending on ITO has had on BPO as he previewed Diamond's 2007 Outsourcing Study results due out later this year.

One of the major themes of Tumpowsky's presentation was that BPO (business process outsourcing) is experiencing the same growing pains as ITO had faced before, and has not learned enough from the ITO experience. In the 2006 study, the following reasons were given for the apparent slowdown in ITO:

- Buyers erroneously outsourced processes and activities which, in hindsight, turned out to be "core functions" which they later decided to do in-house;
- Providers over-promised and under-delivered; and
- The complexity of managing the outsourced functions and measuring their effects far outweighed their benefits.

To fully appreciate these observations, and in order to make use of past outsourcing experience to improve strategic choices for both ITO and BPO in the future, it is necessary to go beyond the data and to examine the underlying organizational dynamics.

Unrealized expectations

Diamond's annual outsourcing study, which this year includes a report on both BPO and ITO, compares the experiences and perspectives of executives who buy and provide outsourcing services.

Many reasons were given for the apparent snag in ITO expansion and stagnant BPO adoption, but one in particular is critical: Unrealized expectations on the part of both vendors and buyers.

One can think of many reasons why outcomes may significantly differ from expectations.

To begin with, buyers are probably disappointed because they expected immediate results. Considering the complexity of most of today's business operations, procedural changes initiated in any part of the business are bound to have a significant disruptive effect not only on the function in question but also on the total operations.

So putting the imported set of procedures in place takes time and involves a tedious learning process. The effects, too, take time to work themselves out.

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Niceto S. Poblador

Moreover, the ultimate outcome of the change becomes increasingly different from initial expectations and becomes more nebulous due to continuously changing parameters. Because of continuous change, the newly installed solution which was designed to solve a problem may no longer apply due to the continuous state of flux and changing directions.

At the end of the year, what can be observed are not the final outcomes of the project but a process that is still unfolding.

One further reason that buyers tend to be disappointed with outsourcing initiatives is that these are often measured in terms of metrics that are applicable only to the process or technology being outsourced and not to the business operation as a whole.

For example, the most frequently mentioned reason for BPO is cost reduction. Cost in these terms is tied to the cost of the process in question. However, changes in procedures in any isolated part of business operations are bound to have "external" effects on other facets of the business.

All things considered, any insignificant cost reduction in the process itself may turn out to be quite major after all if benefits elsewhere in the organization are factored in. Or conversely, a significant cost reduction in the operation may conceal additional costs incurred in the larger system.

In sum, measuring results is no easy matter.

What can be done?

One probable reason for these disappointing results is the design and implementation of "one-size-fits-all" solutions. In today's knowledge-driven business environment, each potential sourcing client is unique and faces equally unique problems.

Unique problems require unique solutions. The obvious approach is to design and put in place solutions that are custom-tailored to the needs of users. In order to do so, however, companies must look inside themselves and think about how outsourcing can be used as a strategic lever to support and help drive corporate objectives.

As Tumpowsky puts it, "exploring BPO without a strategy is like driving without a destination. Furthermore, outsourcing as a stand-alone initiative will leave opportunities on the table, and must be considered as part of a larger organizational change to be optimally successful."

Customization a la Dell is not enough. These customized solutions must be implemented not in one fell swoop but in small, gradual increments over relatively long stretches of time.

A more appropriate change model is one that involves a continuous collaborative relationship between client and consultant, and requires an uninterrupted exchange of insights and information. Such an arrangement involves mutual learning and an open sharing of each other's business models in true partnership.

In such a continuing collaborative enterprise, the solutions themselves evolve along with the problems.

The valuable comments of Brian Tumpowsky of Diamond Consulting and of Fred Ayala of LiveIt are gratefully acknowledged.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an academic and a knowledge management consultant. He is the author of the book "STRATEGY deMYTHicized: Why Today's Business Models Fail to Deliver." Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

GOINGS-ON

Watson Wyatt forum offers CEOs strategies to keep key execs

DESPITE the seeming abundance of youthful manpower in the Philippines, multinational and local companies operating here are significantly affected by the global battle to recruit and keep talent. Valuable global insights, experiences and solutions to the war for talent will be shared by Watson Wyatt Asia Pacific Human Capital Group practice leader Russell Huntington in a breakfast forum for CEOs on Nov. 16 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The event is being organized by Watson Wyatt in line with its mission to update clients and key business leaders with the latest trends and studies in recruitment and human resources, according to James Matti, managing consultant of Watson Wyatt. "This forum should interest business executives, captains of industry, and human resources practitioners who are facing serious human capital challenges worsened by the exodus of top Filipino professionals."

Huntington is frequently invited as a speaker in regional business conferences where he often discusses his area of expertise—Strategic Rewards Management. He has worked with leading business organizations in Europe, Asia and Australia.

Online contest gives students first-hand feel of the stock market

IN LINE with its mission to broaden the base of participants in the Philippine stock market through the Internet, leading online brokerage firm CitisecOnline has partnered with the Philippine Stock Exchange to sponsor the 2nd PSE-CitisecOnline MBA Stock Market Investment Challenge. The contest begins Nov. 19, 2007.

Graduate business students are invited to compete in buying and trading stocks and manage a virtual portfolio by using PSE's Online Stock Trading Game. The PSE educational tool mimics the workings of the actual stock market and allows students to experience firsthand what it is like to trade online in the bourse.

Conrado Bate, president of CitisecOnline, says, "We are inviting all graduate school students to sign up and participate in the investment challenge so that they can experience first-hand what it's like to trade in the Philippine stock market and at the same time, they can practice their investment theories in the bourse."

Registration period is ongoing until Nov. 26. The tournament runs for around 12 weeks from Nov. 19, 2007 to Feb. 15, 2008. Awarding ceremonies will be on Feb. 29 which will be attended by senior officials from the PSE and CitisecOnline.

All graduate school students are encouraged to join the 2nd PSE-CitisecOnline MBA Stock Market Investment Challenge, by simply logging on to www.pse.com.ph, www.citiseconline.com or call CitisecOnline's Customer Relations at 6-333-777.

Cornell Club of the Philippines marks 95 years

THE CORNELL Club of the Philippines headed by its president Congressman Martin Romualdez celebrates its 95th Anniversary on Nov. 17 at The Manila Golf Club, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The celebration will also be a fund-raising event for the benefit of Gawad Kalinga. All Cornell University Alumni and their spouses are invited to attend.

The registration starts at 7p.m. For more information, please contact Raeanna Cranbourne at 752-5678 or e-mail cornellclubphilippines@hotmail.com

Bluewater Day Spa ties up with Digital Image

BLUEWATER Day Spa and Digital Image recently inked a partnership that will give consumers a spa treatment with the latest digital gadget.

For every purchase of Nikon or Aigo digital camera, the buyer gets a 5 percent discount on Bluewater Day Spa's body treatments. For Bluewater Day Spa membership cardholders, they can get a 5 percent discount when they buy at any Digital Image outlets in SM Malls.

"Digital gadgetry and destressing may look totally disparate entities but that is not entirely true. Success-oriented young individuals who want the best results in whatever endeavors they are in are also those that seek ultimate pampering."

"These individuals who enjoy the best modern equipment are also those that take pleasure in the most excellent mind and body treatments," says Jeany Lim, manager of Bluewater Day Spa Makati.

Puno new Geograce Resources chair

MINING firm Geograce Resources Philippines Inc. recently announced the election of lawyer Renato Puno as its new chair of the board. Puno was also elected director of the Geograce board replacing Jose Abaigar.

Puno is the managing partner of the Zulueta, Puno and Associates law offices.

He was formerly deputy managing partner of the Puno and Puno law offices, which was founded by his father, former Justice Ricardo Puno.

Geograce president Jerry Angping said Puno's entry took place amid the mining company's continuing expansion program.

The firm raised some P560 million from a stock rights offer in May this year, with the proceeds being eyed for expanded exploration activities.

Following the stock rights offer, Geograce's market capitalization stood at $115 million.

Back to farming

From page B2-1

end-consumers or to government institutions, subdivisions, and private corporations in Metro Manila, Pangasinan, La Union, Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija and Baguio.

Owing to increase in his sales, Vasquez has been dubbed the "hybrid man" in their place.

He now owns a 10-ha farm planted to hybrid rice and has 50-ha contract growing of hybrid rice, which yields an average of 160-180 cav/ha.

As a source of alternative income, he also engaged in backyard farming.

Help for hometown

With his earnings from hybrid rice, Vasquez proudly said he was able to improve his house, bought additional agricultural lands including the 1.6 ha that his father was tilling, two units of truck, and vehicles for family use.

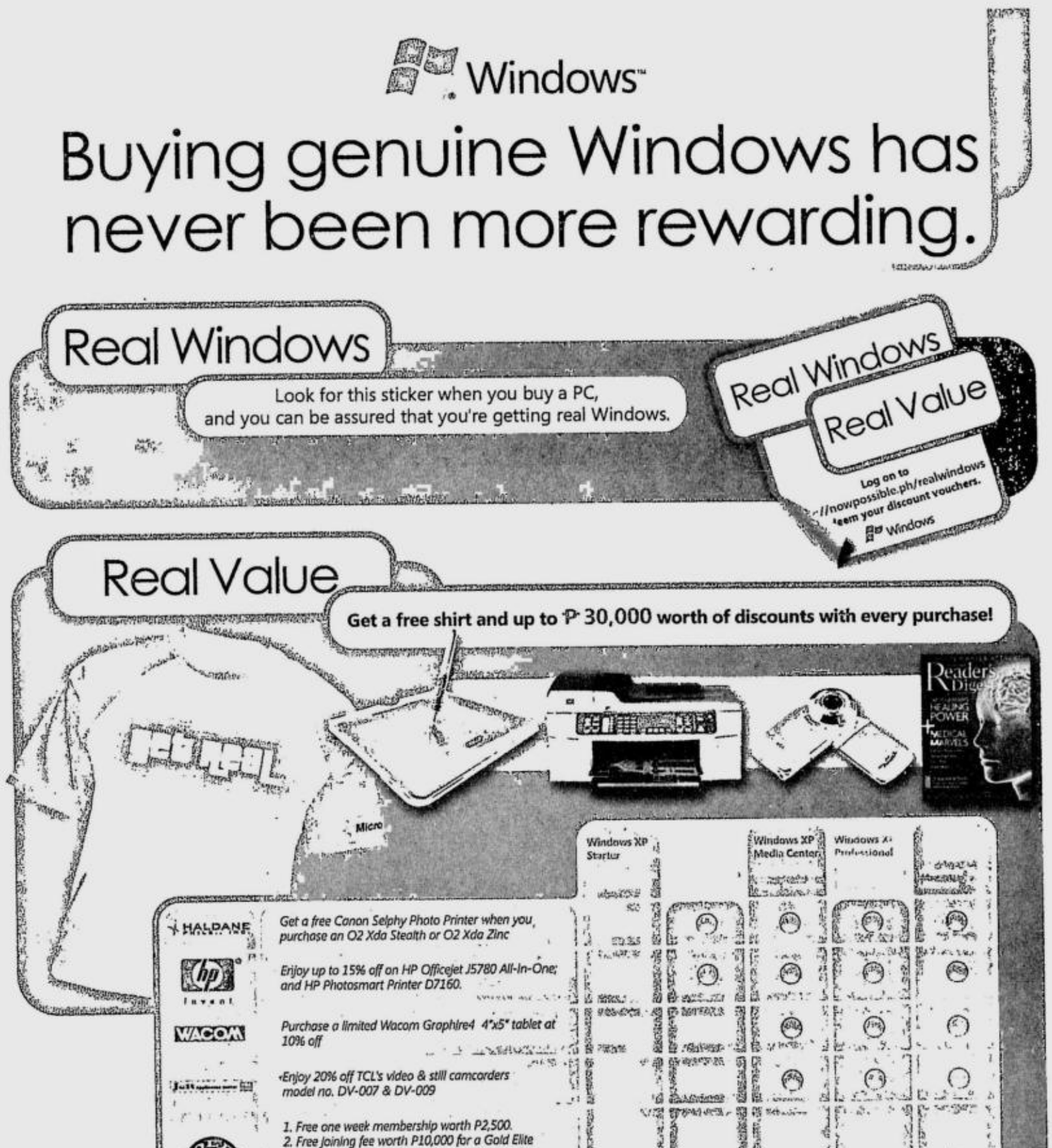
Now, he can even afford to send his children to private schools.

Vasquez added that he was able to help his hometown with the jobs he had created through his own firm, RS Vasquez Enterprises.

His wife, meanwhile, assists in the day-to-day operations by acting as the finance manager of their company.

Despite his artificial leg, Vasquez said he continues to work very hard in improving his business and in promoting the hybrid rice technology.

He added this was in recognition of its potential in raising farmers' productivity and income.



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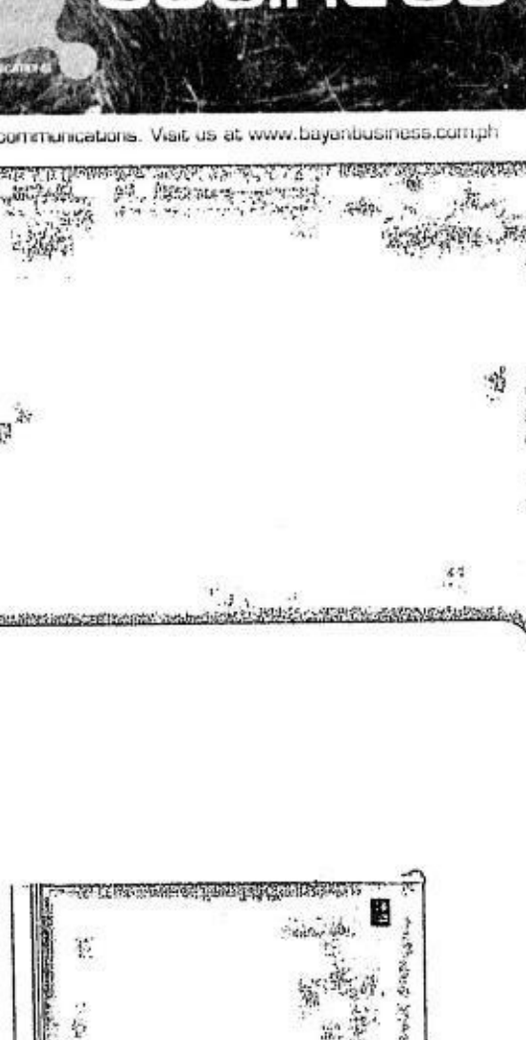

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BUSINESS Monday

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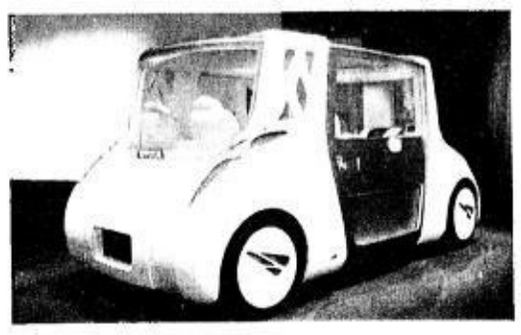


TOYOTA RiN

HONDA

Fanciful, fun and essentially Japanese

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TO THE UNINITIATED and those simply curious, the 40th Tokyo Motor Show (TMS) that ended on Nov. 11 opened a world of wonder, showcasing vehicles coated in eye-catching colors, crafted with barely comprehensible technologies.

To those more familiar with the automotive world, the show offered a foretaste of the shape transportation would take in the years to come.

But to the rabid afficionado, the exhibit evoked intense passion for machines that have defined our freedom of mobility.

Business INQUIRER was able to visit TMS 2007 at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, Japan, and took in the sights and sounds of vehicles that were fanciful, fun and essentially Japanese. It was after all, the land of animé and Zen.

With the theme "Catch the News, Touch the Future," the show was abuzz with catchwords coined for the next generation vehicles—hybrid systems, electric/battery-operated and clean diesel engines.

Toyota Motor Co. says that its concept car, the RiN, explores the relationship between vehicles and people in the 21st century.

Touted as a vehicle that "actually improves one's health," the RiN promotes serene, stress-free living with an interior made for that purpose, using various technologies to the fullest.

Through the RiN, Toyota expresses its belief that future vehicles will embody not only values related to comfort and convenience, but also spiritual health and harmonious, sustainable relationship between society and nature.

Toyota based the RiN's exterior on the image of the deep-rooted, tall-growing Yakusugi cypress tree. The car windows are tinted green and reach all the way to the floor of the car, allowing the motorist to appreciate the flowers by the roadside.

The car also has a "mood adjust" steering control that displays the driver's psychological state as read by sensors which detect the motorist's heartbeat.

Ogling at what others described as a "driveable Tamagotchi," one can easily believe that driving can bring you good karma.

Another favorite at the show is Honda Motor Co.'s concept car Puyo, whose name is a Japanese onomatopoeia, expressing the sensation of touching the vehicle's soft body.

The Puyo is meant to convey a warm, friendly impression, and represents clean, safe and fun use in a minimalist people-friendly environment.

The exterior is described as a "seamless soft box" with a body made of soft and luminescent materials—extra points for safety—while the interior suggests a "silky" and transparent feel.

Love of nature is also taken into account as the Puyo runs on fuel cell technology.

Next on the list is Suzuki Motor Corp.'s Pixy—a one-person vehicle that is based on a concept of "friendly" mobility as it moves at low speeds on footpaths and inside buildings.

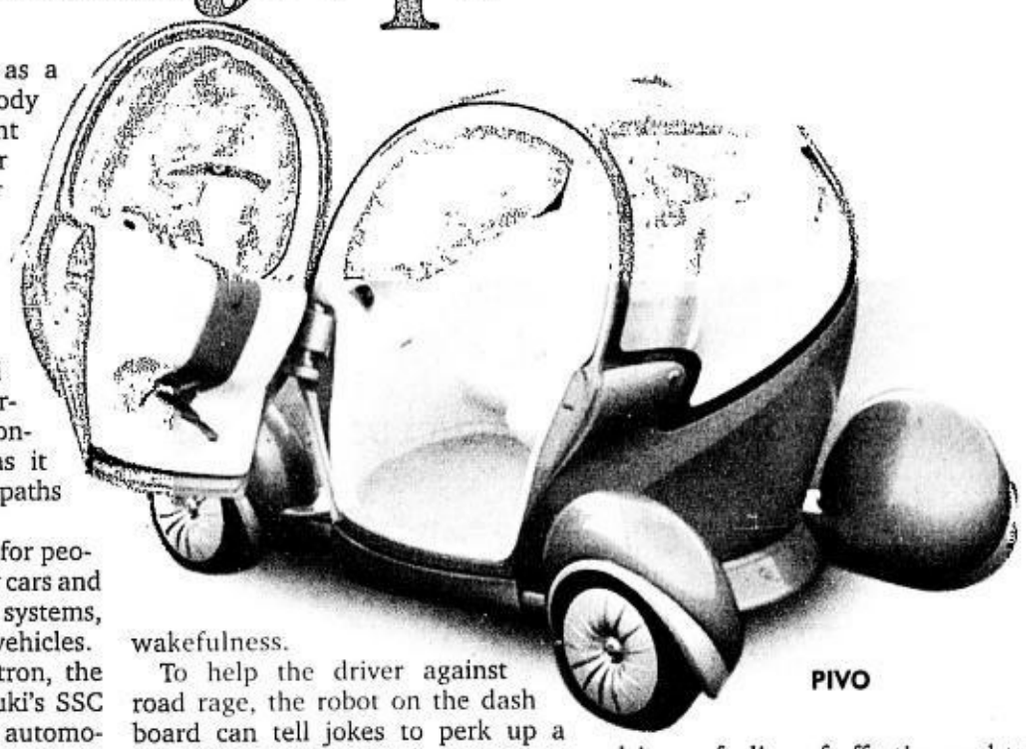
The Pixy is accessible even for people who cannot drive ordinary cars and can be paired with related systems, turning it into more fantastic vehicles.

Yes, like Voltes V and Voltron, the Pixy can mate with the Suzuki's SSC minicar-based unit to form an automobile. The SSC is loaf bread-shaped module that holds up to two Pixys.

The Pixy can also couple with the SSF unit and turn into a sports car, or an SSJ unit to become a speed boat.

Then there's Nissan Motor Ltd.'s Pivo2, also a single-seat gig but one that can be used on the road.

The second-generation Pivo has a robotic interface that can monitor the driver's emotions and state of wakefulness.



PIVO

To help the driver against road rage, the robot on the dash board can tell jokes to perk up a gloomy driver or calm down an angry one. The motorist's emotions are monitored through his or her facial expression and conversation. You probably should not tell the robot its jokes are corny or it would dish out more.

The mole-looking robot would also advice the person on the controls to take a break if, judging from the rate of blinking, the motorist is about to fall asleep.

Nissan says the Pivo2 instills in the driver a feeling of affection and trust for the car. More importantly, that little guy who's watching you can help you drive with a positive frame of mind, reducing the risk of road accidents.

Pivo2 runs on a compact lithium-ion battery at half the size of conventional batteries—part of Nissan's efforts to mainstream electric vehicles by developing ones that don't take too much space and charge fast.

Even if this is what you call a midnight snack, we'll still insure you.

Gains & Growth

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Editor Aries Espinosa

People, Events & Products

Cisco Networking Academy continues to produce world-class IT professionals

DRIVEN BY INCREASING MARKET DEMAND for highly trained IT professionals, Cisco recently reinforced its commitment to producing word-class IT professionals through its Cisco Networking Academy.

This commitment includes an evolution of the core Networking Academy curriculum to keep pace with the swiftly changing requirements of an increasingly connected world and the growing demand for a technically skilled workforce in a competitive global marketplace. These new courses are the direct result of the Networking Academy's increased focus on providing students the skills they need to pursue rewarding IT careers in business-critical positions and industries ranging from technology and finance to medicine and entertainment.

According to a region-wide study conducted by research firm International Data Corp (IDC), there will be a shortage of 396,000 skilled networking professionals in Asia Pacific by 2009 and the Philippines specifically has a shortage of about 1,300 skilled networking professionals currently, rising to 2,400 in 2009, representing a compound annual growth rate gap of 22 percent.

Commissioned by Cisco, the survey involved more than 1,000 middle to senior management respondents from 12 countries in Asia Pacific. A key objective of the study was to measure the skills demand and supply gap for networking technology competency. The gap refers to having a shortage of people with required networking skills to support business functions.

The comprehensive Cisco Networking Academy enables the student to learn networking technologies from basic concepts to actual design implementation. It gives the student proper technical know-how of a network infrastructure, its capabilities and scalability.

The Philippines is considered a great source of world-class IT professionals. Filipinos are hardworking, adaptable and highly trainable, qualities that make them ideal employees in any workplace.

"We believe the Philippines can one day be the regional center of excellence for IT skills. Through our program, we arm our students, our future workforce, with competencies demanded by the local and international IT industry. The Networking Academy curriculum is frequently updated to meet the fast changing technologies in networking" said Luichi Robles, country manager for Cisco Philippines.

The Cisco Networking Academy is a partnership between Cisco Systems, education, business, government and community organisations around the world, aimed at nurturing IT professionals. There are currently over 12,000 Academies in 164 countries around the world, among which, over 1,400 Academies are located in 25countries in Asia Pacific.

Since the program's inception in the Philippines in 1998, over 116,000 students have been trained by more than 800 instructors in 143 Cisco Academies in the country. A number of students have found successful employment in big multi-national companies here and abroad.

"A competent and sufficient information technology workforce is the most precious asset of the Philippines as an information society. Government, educational bodies and society in general have the responsibility to promote technology and telecommunications as a challenging, exciting and rewarding career choice," added Robles.

For more information about the Cisco Networking Academy Program, visit: http://www.cisco.com/go/netacad.

RP'S 1ST TELECOM CO-BRAND PLATINUM CARD

MasterCard scores yet again as the preferred payment brand of choice with the launch of the Philippines' first telecom co-brand platinum card by leading service provider Smart and Banco de Oro, one of the country's leading full-service banks. The Smart Infinity BDO Platinum MasterCard offers a world of infinite possibilities of innovation and privilege with premium benefits like superior credit limit, access to international airport lounges, travel accident insurance and free assistance for lifestyle needs and card-related emergencies. Photo shows (from left) MasterCard's Judith Dayrit and Poch Villa-Real, BDO's Rolly Tanchanco, Smart Infinity's Julie Carceller and Smart's Danilo Mojica.

An exclusive privilege for The Legend Villas family member

THE LEGEND VILLAS FAMILY CLUB CARD IS ALREADY AVAILABLE offering great privileges for its members. The family club members gets certificates of two complimentary Superior Room accommodation with breakfast for two, two upgrade vouchers of the Bi-Level Villa Suite Deluxe, room upgrade vouchers upon availing of any room, six complimentary swimming pool coupons good for two persons, 30 percent discount on total food and beverage bills whether dining alone or with guests at the Lola Maria Coffee Shop, 50 percent off on Buffet Breakfast from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., 20 percent off on any banquet social functions on total food and beverage revenue. Kids below 7 years are free of charge on food and accommodations. What's more, the principal member gets a supplementary card for free. The supplementary cardholder gets 20 percent off on total food and beverage bill when they dine at Lola Maria Coffee Shop. Those who want to be a family club member, can avail these privileges for only P6,200. The Legend Villas is located along Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong. Very near the famous shopping malls of Robinson's and SM Megamall. The hotel boasts of 125 room accommodations, 12 function rooms and 2 ballrooms. The swimming pool comes with an outdoor Jacuzzi for extra relaxation. The Lola Maria Coffee Shop located near the lobby serves sumptuous and tasty Filipino dishes. To avail of the membership, please call 889-0742, 889-1592 or 889-4540.

Fly high with the Unionbank-powered Seair Visa Credit Card

SEAIR, THE AIRLINE OFFERING the fastest flights to Boracay and most flights to Palawan has partnered with UnionBank to launch Seair Visa Credit Card, a lifestyle and vacation card with exclusive privileges.

With Seair Visa Credit Card, cardholders may fly for Free to the Philippines' most popular vacation spots via Seair! Every P40 spending of Seair Visa cardholders charged to their card earns them Privilege Points. Cardholders also earn double points when they buy their Seair tickets at Seair ticketing offices using their card. These privilege points can be converted to free airfare and travel packages.

What's more? Seair Visa Credit Card is designed with a rewards redemption fast track option. Cardholders need to meet only a minimum number of points and charge the remaining cash requirement to their Seair Visa credit card and they're off to their dream vacation!

And not only that, cardholders get as much as 35 percent discount on air fare on non-peak period and 20 percent discount on peak season* (except on black out dates) when they buy tickets at Seair ticketing offices, while earning points on these purchases.

And because Seair Visa is a vacation and lifestyle credit card, cardholders enjoy privilege discounts from resorts and hotel partners from their favorite vacation spots, and for international trips, a free access to the Club Manila airport lounge in NAIA Terminal 1 where they can indulge their palate in a gourmet selection of soup, sandwiches and a variety of refreshments and liquor. Because Seair Visa Credit Card is vacation lifestyle all the way, cardholders may call the Seair Travel Concierge to book their plane ticket or resort. And while at it, cardholders may also inquire on the spot about special travel installments at lowered interest.

Lastly, as a UnionBank Credit Card, Seair Visa card holders also enjoy these fully-loaded benefits: worldwide acceptance, a 24-hour Customer Service, longer and flexible payment terms, Internet convenience, Cyberstatement, numerous payment channels and a 0 percent installment program.

The Seair Visa is powered by UnionBank. UnionBank Credit Cards is the leader in co-brand and affinity credit card development. To date, it has more than 15 co-brand and affinity credit cards in partnership with retail, educational, medical, and financial and service institutions. Seair Visa Credit Card is UnionBank's first airline co-brand card. To apply for a Seair Visa Credit Card, please call 84186 (for Metro Manila) and Domestic Toll Free 1-800-1888-2277 (outside Metro Manila).

MANILABANK
YOUR GOLDEN SAVINGS BANK

October 3, 2007

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

DEAR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please be informed that a special stockholders meeting of this Corporation will be held on **November 26, 2007, Monday at 10:00 A.M.**, 7th Floor Manilabank Building, 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, to pass upon the following:

AGENDA

1 Proof of Notice and Certification of Quorum.
2 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on July 04, 2007.
3 Transfer/Assignment of Substantially All of the Assets and Liabilities, including Substantial Branches and Licenses, of the corporation to China Banking Corporation.
4 Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation and the By-Laws, specifically their Caption and First Article of the Articles of Incorporation, changing its corporate name to *"China Bank Savings, Inc."*
5 Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

In case you cannot attend the meeting in person and you wish to be represented thereat, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a proxy instrument to the Office of the Secretary, 9th Floor, Manila Bank Bldg., 6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 2:00 p.m. of November 21, 2007 in accordance with the By-Laws.

Only stockholders of record as of August 31, 2007 shall be entitled to vote and accordingly, the stock and transfer book will be closed from November 14, 2007 until the close of the business on November 22, 2007.

EDGAR D. DUMLAO
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–Nov. 12, 2007)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

INVITATION TO BID AND TO SUBMIT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders/offerors to bid/negotiate for the SALE/LEASE/JOINT VENTURE on an **"as-is where-is"** basis of the following properties:

Location of Property	Area (sqm)	Floor Price (PhP)	
I. SECOND OFFERING – SALE			
1. Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga [a]	1,242	1,600,000	
2. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija [a]	117	2,173,000	
3. Tugbok (Mintal), Davao City [a]	2,501	1,116,000	
4. Pasay City [a]	256 / 256	4,258,000	
5. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	635	2,222,500	
6. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	423	1,480,500	
7. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	2,050	8,200,000	
8. San Miguel, Bauan, Batangas	1,948	7,792,000	
9. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	899	1,708,000	
10. Quiapo, Manila [a]	1,476	10,940,000	
II. SECOND OFFERING – LEASE			
Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	29,932/mo.	359,190/yr.
III. NEGOTIATED SALE			
1. Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac [a]	3,751	2,521,000	
2. San Jose, Mindoro Occidental [b]	10,000	2,130,000	
3. Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	7,982,000	
4. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	1,202	4,447,000	
5. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	4,470	469,350	
6. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	6,529	685,545	
7. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	2,705	4,263,250	
8. Salapungan, Tarlac City [a]	1,185	3,318,000	
9. Talomo, Davao City	421	1,389,000	
10. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	231	231,000	
11. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	315	315,000	
12. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	356	356,000	
13. Kayumanggi, Lipa City, Batangas	625	850,000	
14. Tagbilaran, Bohol	1,388	1,041,000	
15. Tagbilaran, Bohol	4,367	4,367,000	
16. Andal-Aliño, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	396	356,000	
17. Gogon, Legazpi City	8,598	12,897,000	
IV. NEGOTIATED LEASE			
Brgy. Bolo, Bauan, Batangas	8,962	120,327/mo.	1,443,920/yr.
V. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE		**Sale (PhP)**	**Lease (PhP)**
1. **Alangan, Limay, Bataan** [a]	584,147	67,482,000	84,353/mo. 1,012,230/yr
2. **PNOC Housing Compound** *also open for Joint Venture Dev't.*	59,323	127,533,000	478,651/mo. 5,743,811/yr.

[a] with informal dwellers; [b] with informal dwellers, 615.76 sq.m. portion with existing lease and about 540 sq.m. traversed by a Brgy. Rd

Bid forms, Letter of Intent to Negotiate, Bidding/Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2/F, Estate Mgt. Dept., PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City from **Nov. 12-27, 2007** after payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00. The pre-bidding conference and the public bidding shall be conducted on **Nov. 28, 2007 (2:00pm)** and **Dec. 12, 2007 (2:15pm)**, respectively, at the G/F PNOC Bldg. 6.

For the **Joint Venture of PNOC Bauan Housing**, interested parties shall submit the required Eligibility Documents. Eligible offerors shall be required to pay a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 and submit a proposal to PNOC at the above address.

Award of the sale/lease/joint venture of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID/ OFFER** received from the bidders/offerors.

For properties for negotiation (under Items III, IV and V), offerors may submit their Letter of Intent to PNOC starting the first working day after the first publication of this Notice.

The Bidder/Offeror acknowledges that he/she inspected the properties and verified the titles thereof. The winning bidder/offeror upon receipt of the Notice of Award and after making full payment shall enter the property without seeking the assistance of PNOC. Should the above-mentioned dates be declared non-working holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids/offers or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids/offers or portions thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 8126071 or 8126209 loc. 2302 or 2308 or cellphone no. 0917-8405994.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BERNADETTE B. JUGAN
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI–Nov. 11 & 12, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

INVITATION TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee for IT Goods and Services (BAC-IT), invites qualified local bidders to bid for Co-location Services for the SEC servers and network equipment with an Approved Budget Contract (ABC) of P2,800,000.00. Project Duration is for one (1) year.

Source of Funds: RA 9041

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the bidders starting 12 November to 19 November 2007 from the MIS Division, Basement, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per set of bid document. For further details, you may contact Ms. Lilia O. Pinzon/Ms. Ma. Theresa Samera at Tel. No. 727-6894.

Pre-bid Conference will be on 23 November 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the ERID Conference Room, 7th floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for the submission and opening of bid envelopes will be on 11 December 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the ERID Conference Room, 7th floor, SEC Building. Late bid shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the said opening.

Republic Act 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post-Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s and to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. AQUINO
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - Nov. 12 & 19, 2007)

Creating success stories one child at a time

THE CLASSROOM IS DEMANDING; IT moves at a steady pace. It is no wonder some students miss fundamentals or concepts especially when a teacher simply can't put the class on "hold" to attend to individual deficiencies.

Particularly in the areas of reading and math, early skill acquisition and retention is important, since it is based on a sequential skill building process. Gaps in this process, for whatever reason they may occur, can impede mastery of those skills, according to Chad Schwartz, vice president of Tutoring Club, one of America's pre-eminent academic support institutions.

According to Schwartz, the following are the most common signs that academic issues exist:

• Lack of motivation. A clear sign that the assigned tasks are either too difficult, or that the requisite skills to accomplish them are lacking.

• Homework frustrations. Helping a child complete his or her homework rather than identifying the cause of the frustration and strengthening the learning skills will not help a child become a successful learner.

• Inappropriate classroom behavior. Children who "act up" in class may be having deeper problems and could be masking gaps in academic skill building.

• Weak math skills. Contrary to the belief of some parents, there is no "math gene." Success in math is based largely upon mastery of basic skills - and the critical period for establishing this foundation is between 1st and 8th grade.

• Inability to read at grade level. "The foundation for reading skills is laid down from kindergarten to 3rd grade," notes Schwartz. "If that foundation is shaky, it can affect virtually every other learning skill that children need to acquire."

Recently having opened in the Philippines, the Tutoring Club has been making significant progress in greatly achieving measurable improvement amongst its tutees. To date, Tutoring Club, which has been in operation in the United States for 25 years, is the only such service that offers an impressive guarantee of raising a child's academic skills by a full year level, in only 32 hours.

Through a time-tested system which focuses on developing learning skills, state-of-the-art technology, and highly-skilled professionals, local children have been reaping the benefits of the institution's clear advantages. Particularly dramatic are a few cases where children are having to catch up on 2 or more year's deficit in math skills. One such child has shown marked improvement after only 10 hours and is starting to stand out as an active participant in class, with greatly improved grades.

"We don't leave a lesson until a student has mastered the material being practiced," says Tutoring Club director, Ines Bautista-Yao. "Two 100 percent lessons in a row for that skill level indicate mastery, and we move on. Building and retaining math skills can seem like climbing Mt. Everest to some kids, but our goal is to make it more like overcoming one mole hill at a time - and we literally leave no child behind."

Set your child up for academic success, and more importantly, to succeed in life. A parent is a child's strongest advocate and should consider an investment in "mentoring for success." A little time, planning and money spent now is a lot of time, money and stress saved later. The Tutoring Club, which opened its first center at Bonifacio High Street, Global City, also recently opened a second center at the 2nd floor of Sekai Center, Ortigas Avenue cor. Madison Street, San Juan, Metro Manila. Larry Schwartz, founder and CEO, will be in Manila this October to formally launch Tutoring Club. Free skills assessment will be given to the first few interested parties. For more information, please call the Global City branch at 856-2517 and (0917) or (0918) 84-TUTOR, or Tutoting Club's Greenhills branch at 721-8867.

PIID-SAB holds 3rd congress

THE STUDENT AUXILIARY BODY OF THE Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID-SAB) will hold its 3rd congress at the RL Interior Depot in HK Sun Plaza from Nov. 15 to 17.

The congress anticipates an attendance of 500 interior design students and faculty members from PSID, UP, St. Scholastica's College, PUP, UST, among the 17 interior design schools in the Philippines.

All interior design students are invited to join this 3-day congress, for this will surely be an enriching and inspiring experience for all the interior design students and the faculty members.

For more details, call the PIID secretariat at 867-1403 or 867-1404 and look for Becky or Neri.

ICA batch '82 silver jubilee

AS NOVEMBER USHERS IN THE START OF the holiday season, Immaculate Conception Academy, Greenhills together with Marie France Bodyline International, Facial Care Center, Audio Visual Driver International Philippines, Astoria Plaza Hotel and Top Best is once again abuzz with the most anticipated event of the year: "Slice of Life", ICA's alumnae homecoming on Nov. 17.

The show, hosted by Sam Oh, will be a musical extravaganza featuring some of the country's most celebrated artists. Be enchanted with the music of Christian Bautista, May Bayot, Pops Fernandez, Jacqui Magno and Basil Valdez. Laugh to the rib-tickling comedy of Mitch Valdes and rock to the retro beat of Bloomfields.

A buffet dinner, a spectacular show and big raffle prizes (cash prize of P100,000, resort holiday packages, Boracay trips, furniture, motorcycle, beauty service packages and many other goodies) await guests. For tickets, inquire at Immaculate Conception Alumnae office or call Des at 840-2573.

Asus introduces all-new Eee PC

THE ASUS Eee PC HAS GENERATED INcredible media noise as well as enthusiastic public interest since its first exposure. With computing demands as well as growing number of users, both young and old, the Asus Eee PC provides users with a new mobile Internet experience like never before.

This is a new line of PCs that focuses on providing users with the most comprehensive Internet application based on three Es: Easy to learn, work, play; Excellent Internet experience and Excellent on-the-Go, hence the product name of Eee PC.

"This delightful little computer is incredibly easy to use but at the same time is packed full of technology," said Sean Malony, Intel executive VP, GM of sales and marketing group, "Intel is delighted to partner with Asus on the development on this project, and we would like to once again extend our congratulations to the Asus team of engineers and researchers."

Sean Malony also said, "This tremendous company (Asus), with nearly 20 years of technological breakthroughs, has tackled one problem after another in the industry, and we believe that the Eee PC will be significant in bringing computing and Internet access to more and more children and people around the world-realizing Intel's World Ahead Program."

Learn the latest technology without a technical manual. For easy hands-on, the Eee PC offers two modes of intuitive user interface design in order to accommodate both experienced and inexperienced PC users. The Eee PC is also Windows XP compatible. With over 40 built-in applications, the Eee PC offers dynamic computing experience for learn, work and play.

Built-in WLAN connectivity allows users to stay connected for dynamic Internet usage on the go. With the Eee PC empowers users to share photos without waiting till one gets home; connect face to face with just a few clicks; enjoy online entertainment live; stay on top of emails for high work efficiency and more!

The 7" Eee PC is only 0.92 kg with large flash-based storage capacity and built-in webcam for compact mobility with wireless freedom. The special solid-state disc design based on built-in flash-memory gives the Eee PC a great shock-proof advantage over traditional notebook PCs allowing extra flexibility and a worry free mobile computing experience.

PCHA holds 32nd confab

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF HOSPITAL Administrators (PCHA) is the sole organization pursuing with sustained dedication and deep concern in the advancement of hospital administration in the country. Its projects are geared towards enhancing hospital management through seminars and symposia, publications, among others. The PCHA is composed of hospital executives dedicated to transformational leadership and social concerns.

On Nov. 26, the College will be celebrating its 32nd annual convention and induction ceremonies at Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. It will be a whole day affair with registration starting at 8 a.m. The theme is "The Government Agenda for the Hospital Industry."

Topics covered would be Medical Tourism, Reforms in healthcare under the Department of Health's "Fourmula One" program, Legal Obstacles in hospital management, Outsourcing of hospital services and the Hospital Detention Law. Speakers would be established personalities in both the private and public sector of the industry.

The registration fee per participant is P1,500 if registered before Nov. 15 and P1,800 if after the cut-off date. For reservations and inquiries, interested parties may call the PCHA Secretariat at 924-1527.

PLANTERSBANK CEO URGES 'SME ENABLEMENT'

Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting, chair and CEO of Planters Development Bank proposed a new development approach called 'SME enablement' for industrializing economies during the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) SME Summit held in Melbourne. Ambassador Tambunting said the growth of globally competitive Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) cannot be sustained unless development bankers are prepared to support customers by integrating finance with SME-oriented technology applications, support infrastructure and capacity-building. Plantersbank has already put this 'SME enablement' to practice by opening the first SME industrial park in the Philippines and pursuing a nationwide advocacy program to promote SME-focused technology applications in business.

NCLEX Practice Test now open at IAME Pearson VUE Test Center

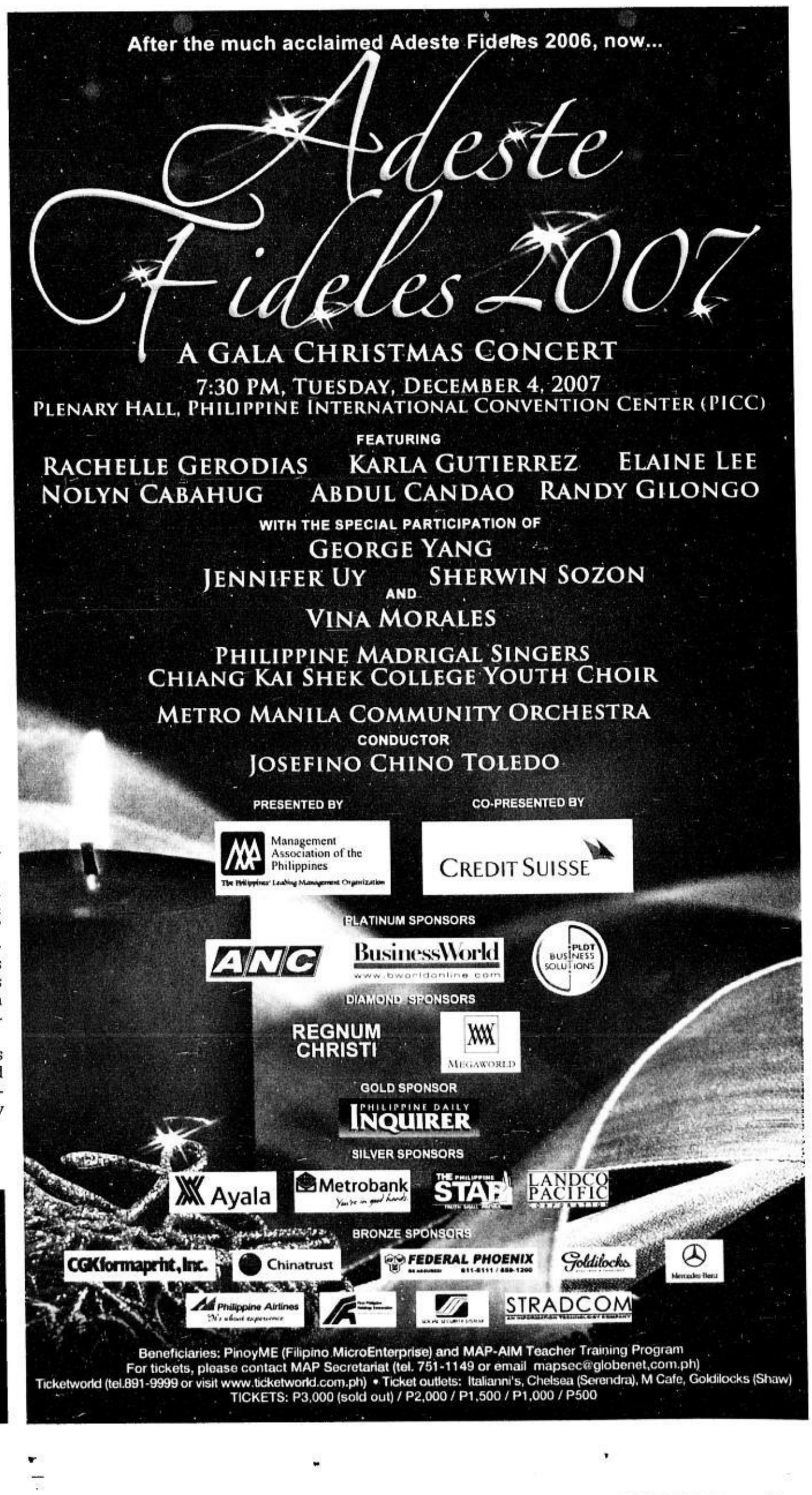
WITH NCLEX NOW AVAILABLE AT PEARSON PROfessional Center at 312 Buendia Avenue Makati City, Pearson VUE Testing at IAME-Makati City has opened the NCLEX Practice Test to provide experience of taking NCLEX Exam in the environment of Pearson Test Center. The purpose of the pre-NCLEX Exam Practice Test is to remove nervousness, fear and apprehension of the nurse examinees and to give them a feeling of confidence.

IAME PVTC is also authorized to offer IT Certification for the following Test Programs: Agilent Technologies, Altiris, Aruba Networks, Inc, Avaya Inc, Brocade Communications, Check Point Software Technologies, Cisco Systems Inc, Citrix Systems Inc, CompTIA, CWNP, Dassault Systemes, EC-Council, EMC, EXIC, HDI, ICRM, Isilon Systems, Linux Professional Institute, MatrixOne, Microsoft Testing, Microsoft Dynamics, My SQL, Novell Testing, Pegasystems Inc, PostgreSQL CE (SRA OSS), Radware, Riverbed Technology, RSA Security Testing, SAP, Security Certified Program Test, Siemens, SITA Inc, Sun Microsystems - SAI Program, VERITAS, Vmware Inc, Zens Technologies.

The fee for the Practice Test is P500 per hour. The nurse examinees may also take a refresher course consisting of 12 modules at P500 per hour. The Practice Test is for both the NCLEX-RN and NCLEX-PN examinations.

After passing the NCLEX Exam, the successful passer may take the TOEIC Exam at the IAME DynEd English Proficiency Center.

The NCLEX Practice Test maybe taken at the Pearson VUE Test Center located at the 4th floor of the International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME), Noli Santos International Tower, 1061 Metropolitan Avenue, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Queries and reservations maybe made through (632)896-2358; 757-2608 or 09 local 15; 0917-8602107.



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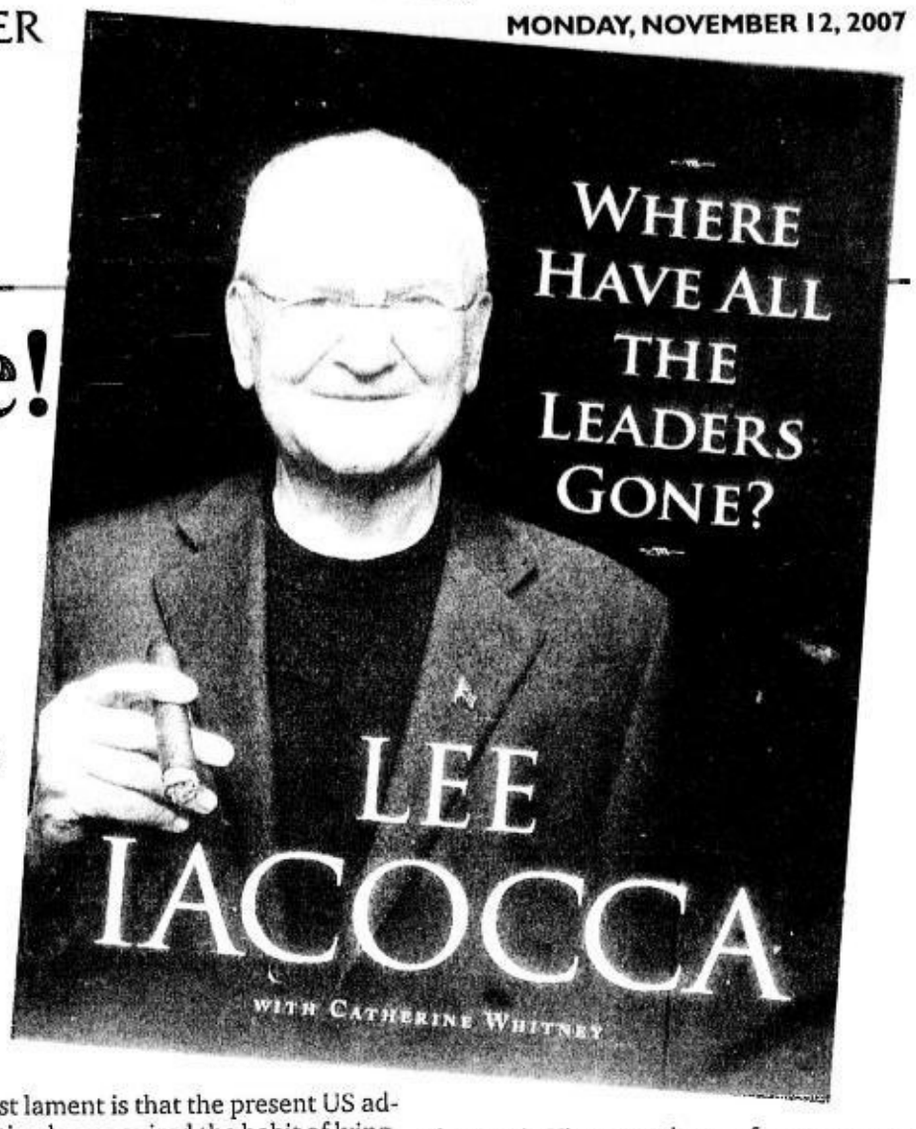
Leaders, rise!

"Where Have All the Leaders Gone?"
By Lee Iacocca
Scribner, 2007

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor



EXECUTIVE READ

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF CONFUSING double-talk these days. A bundle of cash distributed in the Palace is not a bribe; it is support for the leader's constituency. A pardon granted to a convict is a humanitarian act because he is 70, while the rest of the less powerful 70 year-olds remain in jail.

A cleric-governor told the truth about the money he received, and almost all officials said he did wrong.

Whatever happened to our leaders? This would be a question that is actually a lament about the state of our leaders in this country.

Iacocca's lament

Do we have a monopoly of such a lament? No. A recent book by Lee Iacocca asks a similar question: "Where have all the leaders gone?" It is catchy because it takes off from a popular protest song in the '60s which asks: "Where have all the flowers gone?"

Is Lee Iacocca, the savior of Chrysler, mourning the disappearance of real leaders? It seemed so in the beginning, until you get to the conclusion at the last page of the book. But that's getting ahead of the story.

His first lament is that the present US administration has acquired the habit of lying. Referring to American involvement in Iraq, the author says: "We went to war on a lie. Congress did not debate it. The press didn't challenge it. Secretary of State Colin Powell even got fooled." Sounds familiar?

His other lament is that the arrogance of leaders blinds them to real solutions. Iacocca relates the advice given by Douglas MacArthur to then President Lyndon Johnson: "Sonny, never get involved in a land war in Asia."

Johnson missed the point, and escalated the war in Vietnam where, after many years and thousands of American lives snuffed out, America lost.

The author explains that Johnson so resented MacArthur calling him "Sonny" he did not pick up the unsolicited advice.

The author also frowns upon politicians who decide on the basis of political expediency and not on what is right and effective.

Iacocca once advised former President Ronald Reagan to increase the gas tax of Americans by 5 percent to discourage oil consumption. Reagan reacted: "I will commit political suicide."

Iacocca also takes to task the greed in both government and business. He comments that many leaders might have been watching a movie where Michael Douglas uttered, "Greed is good."

Positive alternatives

However, the book is not all lament and prostestations from the guy who earned respect for his no-nonsense, no quarters leader.

For every criticism he makes, he offers a positive alternative. For example, in place of greed and other negative values, the author shares these thoughts:

"Instead of greed, how about generosity?/ Instead of envy, try a little charity,/ Instead of pride, show some humility,/ Instead of wrath, let's see composure."

From a former no-nonsense business leader, this quote seems alien: "Now leadership involves not just lending a hand, but also lending an ear—respecting the cultures and insights of other nations."

Knowing Iacocca now for what he thinks fiercely, we know that the quote reflects the character of the man.

As he moves on giving running commentaries on leaders, making annotations on events, giving profiles of most unlikely personages like Fidel Castro of Cuba, Iacocca steadily discloses his commitments.

He is an advocate of Adam Smith's free enterprise system. He points out: "Our capitalist system holds the promise that every American can succeed, but if we don't infuse it with some humane values, it deteriorates into a winner-take-all setup, which does not really serve our free enterprise system or our common good."

And yet he just doesn't lapse into glittering generalities. He prescribes: "Pay for performance," and we understand that many leaders in America are being rewarded for not performing. In fact, he reveals a shocking truth that there was a year "when the highest paid CEOs in the country were heading the worst performing companies."

He adds, with understandable tinge of irony: "Is this a new definition of talent—the ability to lose money?"

Retirement and mortality

Now in the twilight of his years, Iacocca shifts from sarcasm, wit and merciless criticism to sober and somber thoughts of his retirement—then of his mortality. Throughout the book, Iacocca freely shares his thoughts and ideas—as a straight shooter. These thoughts come from a man who is no longer impressed by honeyed words, feigned compassion, studied cordiality. He is merciless with artifice.

Somehow, when what counts in life comes, he is gentle and full of distilled wisdom. He advises that when you retire, you should not "disengage from life" and must hang out with the youth." "Count your blessings," he says, adding "I never wore my religion on my sleeve, but I've always had faith."

In his encounter with three popes and Evangelist Oral Roberts, he vividly recalls Roberts' thought: "Everybody's going to die, and they go someplace. So just be sure your spiritual bank account has more cash receipts than debt."

Yes, he finally asks the question: Where have all the leaders gone? His answer is both categorical and hopeful: "They're right here, in this great country. But they need to be called forth."

The faith and optimism of Lee Iacocca who never gave up on Chrysler is not giving up on America—and, maybe the world. If that's any consolation, the world includes the Philippines. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

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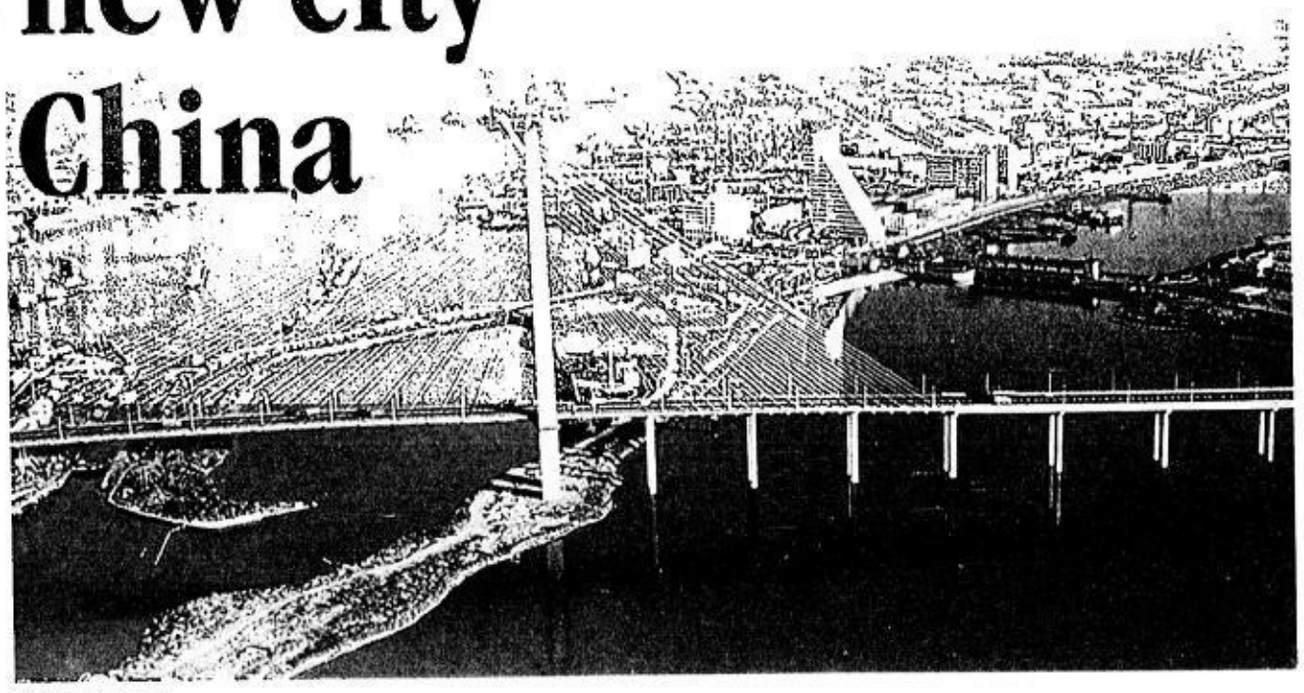
Tale of a new city rising in China

Tianjin to host WEF meeting next year

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.



TIANJIN Port

TIANJIN, CHINA—IT DOESN'T COME AS a surprise that this city, once known as the "ferry crossing of the emperor, " will host next year's World Economic Forum on "New Champions."

From the empty spaces and salt beds between the city center, about an hour's drive from Beijing, and the Bohai Bay in North China, the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (Teda) has been transformed into an industrial and hi-tech hub after more than a decade.

Teda's central business district, about two hours' drive from the Chinese capital, is a well-planned "gleaming city" of office and residential buildings, hotels, banks, shops for high-end consumer goods, restaurants, gardens, fairways and wide boulevards.

New structures, including the convention center for next year's WEF meeting, are being built in Teda, whose business district is an "advanced" (in terms of development) and bigger version of sorts of The Fort in Taguig in Metro Manila.

Teda, a function zone, is part of the Tianjin Binhai New Area (TBNA), which comprises three administrative districts—Tanggu, Hangu and Dagang—and two other functions zones—Tianjin Port Free Zone and Tianjin Port.

A scale model of the TBNA occupies the first floor of the administrative building where visitors are briefed about the different sections, highways, rivers and boundaries of the sprawling area.

The TBNA boasts a planned area of 2,270 square kilometers with a coastline of 153 km.

Incentives

To attract investors, the government has offered investors a preferential tax rate of up to 15 percent and accelerated depreciation on fixed and intangible assets.

The TBNA has attracted some 3,000 businesses (including more than 200 enterprises from the world's top 500 firms) from 100 countries, resulting in "utilized" overseas investment of $19.1 billion.

Domestic investment amounted to 33.2 billion yuan, according to its administrative committee.

Among the companies that have set up shop in Teda are Otis, Toyota, Glaxo Smith Kline and Bluescope Butler.

Trade is booming in the area as reflected in the frenetic activities at the port.

Giant blue and red cranes, like limbs of "Transformers," sit atop the quays on the light brown waters of Bohai, loading and unloading cargo.

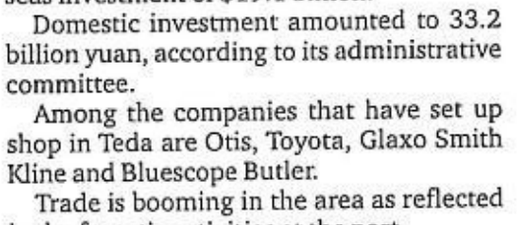
World's 6th biggest port

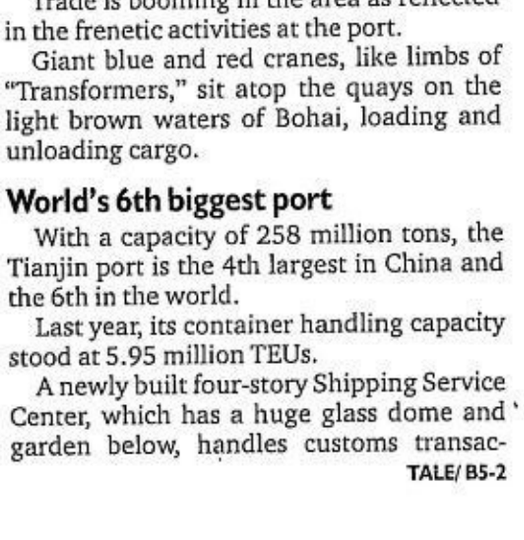
With a capacity of 258 million tons, the Tianjin port is the 4th largest in China and the 6th in the world.

Last year, its container handling capacity stood at 5.95 million TEUs.

A newly built four-story Shipping Service Center, which has a huge glass dome and garden below, handles customs transac-

TALE/ B5-2





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KNOWLEDGE CHANNEL PROGRAM

Mindanao school gets new educational facilities

MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO—The US Agency for International Development (USAID)-Philippines and the Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc. last week turned over educational television (ETV) facilities to the San Isidro Elementary School in Midsayap, North Cotabato.

At official ceremonies attended by Education secretary Jesli Lapus and USAID mission director Jon Lindborg, the school received satellite TV infrastructure under the program "Television Education for the Advancement of Muslim Mindanao" or TEAM-Mindanao.

The three-year USAID-assisted project, which started in 2004 has provided 150 public schools in conflict-affected areas in ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) and Regions 9 and 12 with access to ETV programs covering the DepEd's basic learning competencies in Math, Science and English.

San Isidro Elementary School is the 150th and last school on the list of recipients, officially terminating the Knowledge Channel project in this part of the country.

So far, the Knowledge Channel has been benefiting some 78,529 students on a yearly basis in the most remote and isolated areas of Mindanao.

It has been made available in 31 municipalities within eight provinces including Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

According to Doris Nuval, TEAM-Mindanao project director, the Knowledge Channel (KCh) has impacted on the academic performance of its end-users; especially in the province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

All 15 schools provided with KCh in that province have posted significant increases across all subject areas in the Division Achievement Tests (DAT), according to the Zamboanga Sibugay Schools Division ETV coordinator, Froilan Menez.

Among notable successes was the Habib Moin Anduhol Elementary School, which posted a significant increase in its Mean Percentage Score (MPS) from 25th place (43.03 percent) in the Division in 2005-2006 to 7th place (61.34 percent) in 2006-2007.

Bangkerohan Elementary School also showed an increase in its MPS and rose from 27th place (50.35 percent) in 2005-2006 to 1st place (68 percent) in 2006-2007 in the DAT.

Nuval also claimed that TEAM-Mindanao is a prototype of project sustainability with Parent Teachers and Community Associations of 16 schools in North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Zamboanga Sibugay and Tawi-Tawi having raised funds on their own to buy a total of 45 additional television sets for their schools.

This, stated Nuval, is "no mean feat, considering that all of these communities are mired in poverty and belong to 5th and 6th class municipalities."

Some local government units have also owned up to TEAM-Mindanao and have supported the project by paying their schools' electric bills, improving KCh viewing rooms by repainting or decorating these, providing floor mats for children to sit on, and most important, maintaining and ensuring the safety of the ETV infrastructure with the help of *barangay tanods*.

With TEAM-Mindanao, the Knowledge Channel is now in the southernmost municipality of the country—Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi where schools were electrified with solar panels before the ETV infrastructure was installed.

"Tawi-Tawi children as well as their teachers in the "hinterest" of islands now enjoy and learn from educational television like their Manila counterparts, in effect equalizing teaching and learning opportunities," Nuval said.

According to the project director, "the last three years have been dotted with adventures of the riskiest and richest kind—getting lost in the middle of the Sulu Sea looking for island barangays which disappeared in the mist, crossing crocodile-infested waters to get to the mountain schools of Zamboanga del Sur, getting caught in the crossfire of feuding families in Basilan, and installing satellite dishes in the midst of military operations in Maguindanao to flush out ASG leader Janjalani. No doubt, there were times when we asked ourselves if the effort was worth all these; and we found the answers in the faces of little children whose eyes lit up and stay lit upon seeing television for the first time."

Educational television and technology is finally at work in Mindanao—at least in these 150 schools whose administrators never dreamed of having a technology-driven educational intervention assist them in the way that the Knowledge Channel has.

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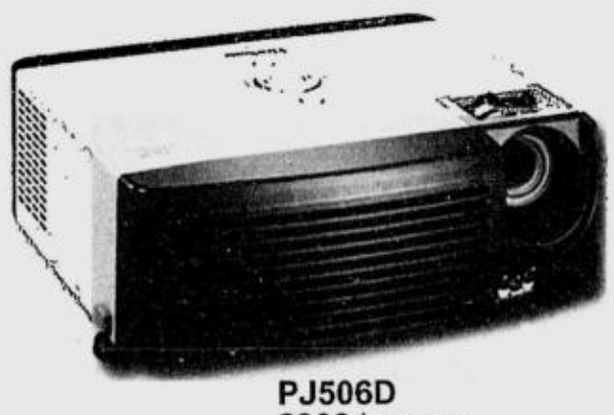

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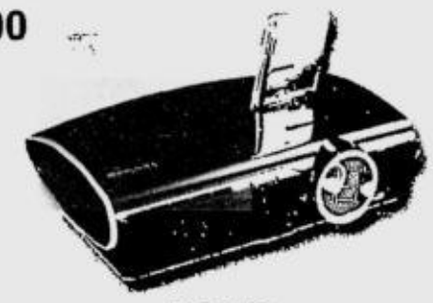

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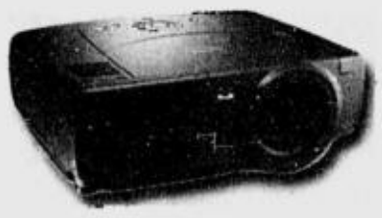

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Tale of a new city ...

From page B5-1

tions through the e-port system that integrates e-government, e-commerce and e-logistics.

Impressive is Tianjin's economic performance as a result of the trade and investment.

Over the past five years, its gross domestic product (GDP) has registered an annual growth rate of 14 percent, according to Mayor Dai Xianglong.

He said the average annual fiscal revenue grew 24.3 percent.

Tianjin's GDP increased 14.4 percent last year to 433.77 billion yuan, raising per capita GDP to more than $5,000.

Testing ground for reforms

In line with the guidelines of China's State Council, people in China, who want to buy foreign stocks, can use Tianjin as "access point," said the mayor.

"In principle, pioneering reforms concerning financial enterprises, financial businesses, financial market and financial opening-up are allowed to be tested first in the TBNA," the Council said in a document issued on May 26, 2006.

Tianjin has a population of 10.43 million and an area of 11,900 square kilometers. One of the four municipalities under the direct supervision of the central government, it will host football games during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

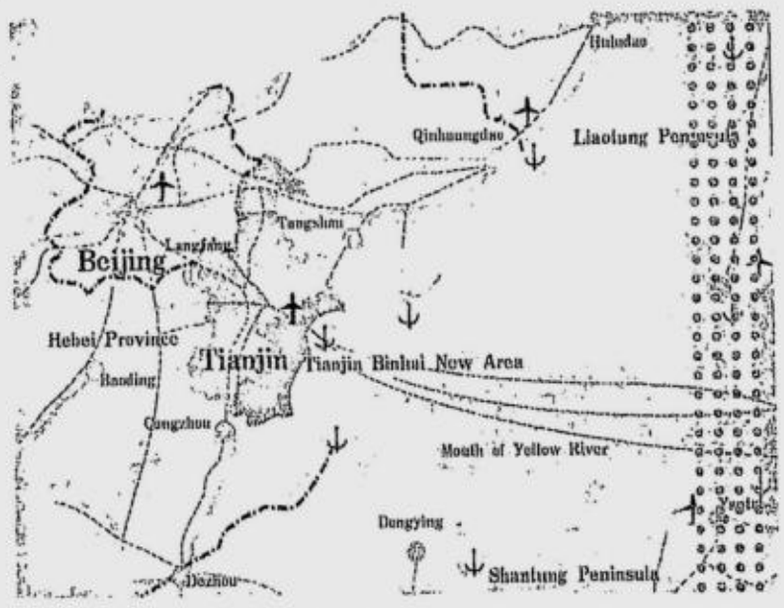
By August next year, three fast transport systems will link the city to Beijing.

High-speed trains will cut travel time to and from Beijing to just 28 minutes.

Zhang Gaoli, secretary general of the CPC Tianjin Municipal Committee, said: "Tianjin will follow the scientific approach to development," hopefully to become the country's third pillar of growth.

The State Council has identified the TBNA as another engine for regional economic growth after the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone and the Pudong New Area.

"If we want great development, we should open up. So we will make the investment climate excellent for both foreigners and Chinese," Zhang said.



MAP of the Tianjin Binhai New Area

October Global Sales Rebound

-15.3 pct m-o-m to 240,953 units

- Korean sales up 8.9 pct m-o-m, overseas sales up 17.3 pct

-- Jan-Oct '07 sales up 5.4 pct y-o-y reaching 2.14 million

(Seoul, Korea) After a sluggish September which saw Hyundai Motor Co.'s worldwide sales fall by 11.5 percent, there was good news in October as sales rebounded by 15.3 percent over the prior month to reach 240,953 units. On a cumulative basis, the company's worldwide sales for the ten months of this year are up 5.4 percent over the comparable period last year, reaching 2,139,170 units.

Korean sales rose by 8.9 percent m-o-m to 55,224 units while a brisk rise in export shipments from Korean factories precipitated an even healthier 37.5 percent rise equivalent to 119,304 units.

Domestic Passenger Car

Sonata, Avante/Elantra and the Grandeur/Azera were the company's top three selling vehicles in the home market with 10,376 units, 8,922 units and 6,940 units, respectively sold in October. In a market that has been traditionally cool to hatchbacks, sales of the newly introduced i30 topped the 2,000 mark for the second straight month. A total of 30,432 Hyundai passenger cars were sold in Korea during October, marking a 0.2 percent improvement over the previous month.

Domestic SUV & Minivans

Santa Fe once again led SUV sales with 4,709 units sold (up by 40.0 percent) with Tucson in second spot registering sales of 2,709 units. Total SUV and minivan sales for October jumped by 18.3 percent m-o-m to 8,933 units.

Commercial Vehicles

Sales of Hyundai buses in Korea surged by 26.6 percent m-o-m to 5,201 units while truck sales jumped by 22.6 percent m-o-m to 10,658 units.

Export Sales

Overseas shipments from Hyundai's three Korean factories grew by 37.5 percent m-o-m to 108,304 units, excluding the exports of 23,430 knock-down kits to overseas assembly partners in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

Hyundai's overseas manufacturing subsidiaries in India, China, Turkey and the United States saw October sales slip by 2.7 percent m-o-m to 77,425 units. Total overseas sales for the month stood at 185,729 units equivalent to a 17.3 percent improvement over the previous month.

Established in 1967, **Hyundai Motor Co.** has grown into the Hyundai-Kia Automotive Group which was ranked as the world's sixth largest automaker in 2006 and includes over two dozen auto-related subsidiaries and affiliates. Employing over 68,000 people worldwide, Hyundai Motor posted US$29.4 billion in sales in 2006 (on a non-consolidated basis, [US$68.4 billion consolidated]). Hyundai vehicles are sold in 193 countries through some 5000 dealerships and showrooms. Further information about Hyundai Motor Co. and its products is available at http://www.hyundai-motor.com

DESIGNS range from simple ethnic swirls to complicated actual portraits

Art on your wrist

Text and photos by Abigail L. Ho

PAINTINGS USUALLY ADORN the walls of museums or art lovers' houses—admired from afar, not to be touched lest their beauty be tainted.

But there are works of art that thrive on human touch, and some actually reside almost permanently on the owners' arms.

These are wearable art—exactly what Baubles Bangles N Beads' (BBB) pieces are. Their colorful wooden bangles are literally works of art in bring-anywhere sizes, with designs ranging from simple ethnic swirls to complicated actual portraits.

"I was an artist by profession and I really wanted to incorporate art into accessories," says Venny Lex Santos, the man responsible for hundreds of unique BBB bangle designs. "Bangles were the easiest way to do that since they provided a big enough canvas for painting."

So after 15 years of working in an art gallery as resident artist, and everything else besides, Venny decided to pursue another calling in the art scene.

It also helped that his girlfriend and business partner Paoling Yiu is a huge bangle person.

Team effort

"We're really a team," says Pao. "I handle the online business, Venny is in charge of production, and another partner, Joyce, takes care of the administrative stuff and the financials."

The design conceptualization process is entirely Venny's territory, she says.

Venny is ably supported by five young apprentice artists who execute his designs on their doughnut-shaped canvas.

Working tirelessly for the most part of a day, Venny says he and his artists can finish anywhere from 150 to 200 bangles a week, with each contributing five to 10 bangles a day.

"It's a long process since each piece is hand painted," he says. "The process is exactly like doing a painting, only the medium is a bangle."

If the actual painting process takes a lot of time and effort, Venny says, the conceptualization stage is even more taxing as he always has to have fresh new ideas coming.

Unique designs

His designs are inspired by almost anything under the sun—from graphic designs and architecture, to nice prints that he sees on the streets or even on someone's shirt.

Since Venny is in the fashion business, he also has to be updated with the latest trends here and abroad.

"I'm a guy, but I always have to read fashion magazines and websites," he says. "I have to know the latest trends. We need to keep coming up with new ideas."

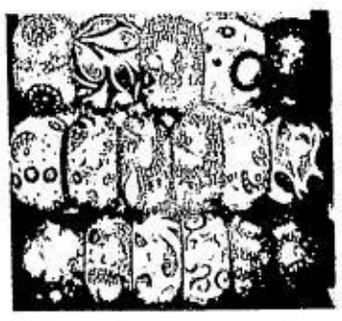
But having to constantly look through fashion magazines and websites has paid off handsomely for BBB as Venny says he has not seen designs like theirs on anybody else's bangles.

He also takes pride in saying that BBB is probably one of the reasons wooden bangles are a rage among Filipino fashionistas, whether it's summer or the rainy season.

"Bangles are usually summer accessories, but we still have a constant stream of buyers even if it's no longer summer," he says. "The quality of the bangles, even if they're a bit pricey, keep clients coming back for more."

Although BBB also comes out with basic bangle designs, such as ethnic prints, flowers and sun bursts, he says the twists given to these common designs are what give BBB pieces an edge over those of competitors.

Since each of BBB's pieces are lovingly and painstakingly made, using only high quality paints and wooden bangles, it's not a surprise that they are also priced a bit higher than other wooden bangles in the market.



"THE PROCESS is exactly like doing a painting, only the medium is a bangle," says Santos (left)

Pao says BBB bangles sell for a minimum of P400, with premium price tags placed on special and made-to-order designs.

The price factor actually made Venny a bit apprehensive at the start since he wasn't sure whether or not people would be willing to pay a premium for wooden fashion accessories.

Artists' talent fees are obviously not open for compromise, considering the difficulty of executing artworks on such small canvasses. The quality of the materials used also cannot be sacrificed.

"But then, people started buying, and we also had a lot of repeat orders," Pao relates.

Power of the Internet

BBB's site on social networking and blogging service provider Multiply—baubles-banglesnbeads.multiply.com—has helped boost the popularity of BBB bangles by the sheer number of people it can reach at any given time.

Right now, BBB bangles are also consigned in Anthology at the Archeology section of the Powerplant Mall, F*art Store in Cubao, Schu in Glorietta 3, Peppered Cherry in Serendra, Ichigo Shoes in Greenhills, and Nothing But Water.

Pao says BBB doesn't have any plans of setting up a physical store since the Multiply site is easier to maintain, with less overhead.

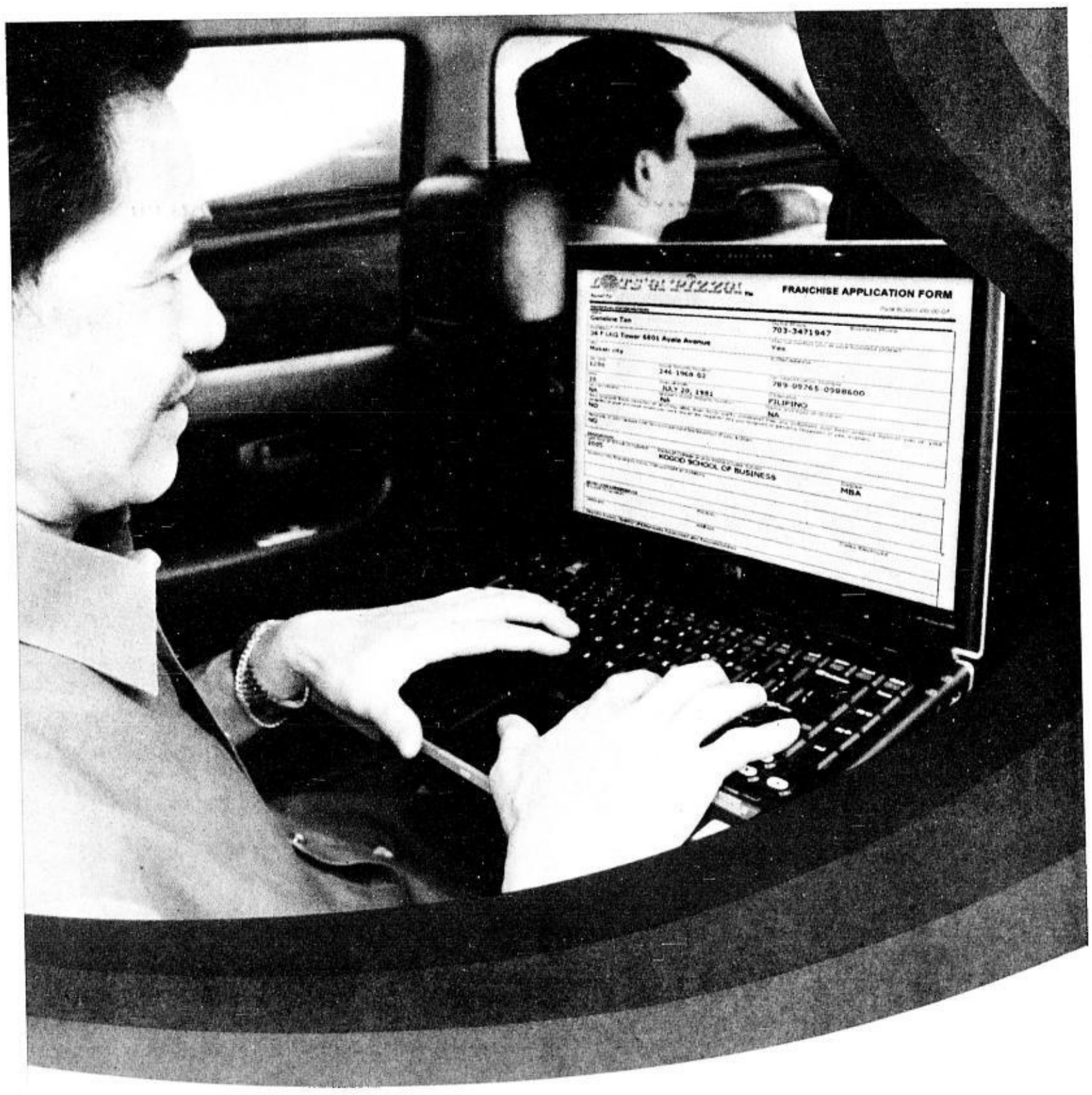
"We can't fill up an entire stand-alone store with just our bangles," she explains. "It's also easier to just sell on Multiply since all we need is an Internet connection and a computer. We're still wary of risks."

Cyberspace continues to be the most lucrative business venue for BBB, she says, with bazaars and consignments becoming only secondary markets, serving as a means to constantly remind people that BBB is here and is still churning out new stuff.

BBB sees innovation as a key success factor—which is why it has expanded its line to also include artsy earrings and funky yet classy neckpieces, all executed in wood.

As long as people are willing to bring along their "paintings" wherever they go, he says, BBB will continue to churn out pieces that are worthy of being called wearable art.

RP's ATM industry prepares to bitch on outsourcing bandwagon



THE COUNTRY'S OUTsourcing industry, dominated by business process providers like call centers, is on its way to a new arena as banks and other financial institutions aggressively pursue expansion plans anchored on the rapid deployment of more automated teller machines (ATMs) nationwide.

Since ATMs in the Philippines have traditionally been owned and operated by the banks, these units have often been branded as a cost center, requiring substantial capital investment as an added service demanded by bank clients.

Banks, therefore, not only need to be technologically ready but also financially sound to be able to put in place an ATM infrastructure to drive future growth.

For this reason, independent operators, also known as ISOs (independent service organizations) or IADs (independent ATM deployers), will likely take on a greater role in the local banks' growth strategies, seeking to capitalize on the limitations of banks, particularly smaller kinds such as rural banks, to modernize and expand through the deployment of an extensive ATM network.

In the Philippines, ISOs can work out various deals with banks in setting up an ATM system, at no cost to the banks.

Initially, these arrangements involve the supply and maintenance of ATMs, with the banks providing the location, network connection and cash handling services.

Non-bank locations are also viable sites to meet cardholders' need for convenience in obtaining cash.

Tiered fee-based charges will apply on a per transaction basis shared among the host, the ISOs and other participants through which the transaction was consummated.

In the US and other advanced markets like Europe, ISOs have gained prominence as the foremost provider of ATMs for banks.

From less than 20 percent in 2000, private ownership of ATMs has now widely exceeded bank-owned units with at least 80 percent in the US alone, the bulk of which are in off-site locations.

ISOs have also been driving retail deployment in the UK with about 21,600 off-site ATMs, more than 2.5 times the number of that in Spain, its closest rival in Europe, said Dominic Hirsch, managing director of London-based financial analysis firm Retail Banking Research Ltd. and an executive board member of the global group ATM Industry Association (ATMIA).

Besides increasing activity on the part of ISOs and greater willingness to pay for their services, Hirsch said other factors that would propel future retail ATM deployment include growth in average retail outlet size, greater provision in underserved rural areas, and growth in third-party advertising.

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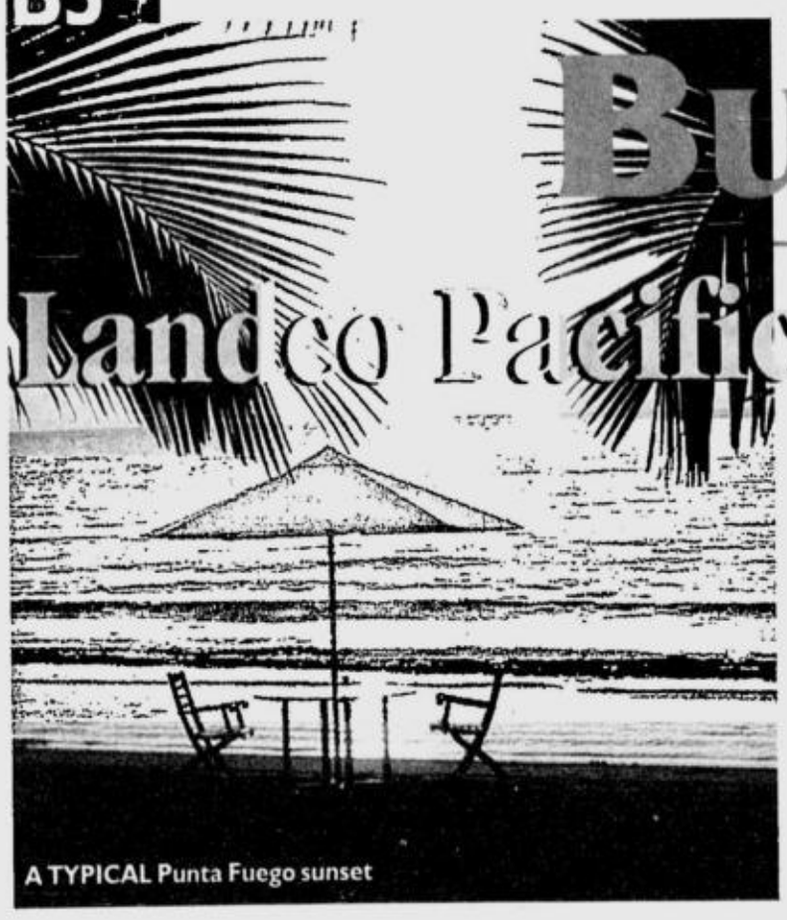
BUSINESS Monday

Landco Pacific strives to keep market edge


A TYPICAL Punta Fuego sunset

By Christine A. Gaylican
Contributor

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT FOR LANDCO Pacific Corp. is more than merely upgrading the land value but is constantly recreating a unique niche that targets the need for comfortable but chic urban living or bringing modern amenities into a rural setting.

Landco Pacific has been ahead of the pack among Philippine real estate developers when it comes to high-end projects. The company, which is a joint-venture between the Xerez-Burgos family and the First Metro Pacific Corp., introduced upscale resort living with its Peninsula de Punta Fuego and other related projects in 1995. It also introduced the urban farming concept with Leisure Farms in 1999.

"We are four to five years ahead among other property developers in this scale. We always try to bring opportunity for quality living because we live in very stressful times," shares Landco senior vice president Albert "Alby" Xerez-Burgos III.

Alby, who is also the marketing manager, says it has been a challenge to maintain its edge of the high-end market in a very competitive industry these days, which rides on more than five years of a property market boom.

High-end brand

He says every project must be conceived differently to satisfy the diverse and eclectic taste of the Class A to upper B markets.

Alby says that in conceptualizing new projects, they consider that their targeted market only wants the best in life.

"We have to hinge on the fact that our prospective clients, who are successful in their careers and mostly well-traveled, only want the best things in life. We have to constantly work to meet their demands and we only want to give the best projects that they deserve," he notes.

Alby's dad, Landco Pacific's president and CEO Albert Xerez-Burgos Jr., says acquiring a prime piece of property is not only relevant but is investing in reliable infrastructure that commands the price of a high-end real estate brand.

The elder Xerez-Burgos says they strive to go beyond expectations of their very meticulous market.

He cites that for their new project, the Monterrazas de Cebu, intensive capital investments on the part of Landco and its partners from start to finish are vital to its success.

"This is the company's biggest project outside of Luzon and we want to go beyond expectations," he notes.

Latest project

The seasoned property developer knows that the location of Monterazzas de Cebu occupying a 200-hectare piece of property located 340 meters above sea level best known as the "Skyline" will provide a scenic view of Cebu City and its nearby islands.

"This is the last contiguous property available in the heart of Cebu City," says the elder Xerez-Burgos. He notes that their tandem with project partners Genvi Development Corp. led by owners Augusto and Margarita Villalon would fulfill one of the grandest mixed-use residential property in the country.

The groundwork for viable road access and other supporting infrastructure has begun in April. Future residents are guaranteed a view of Mandaue, Cebu and Talisay cities.

"We have invested a substantial amount of money to make everything right," he says.

The company has recognized the need to address the environmental concerns on the project's drainage system.

Alby says the company has invested in the development of 25 detention ponds that can contain 1,600 millimeters of water at one time to prevent the flooding of lowland areas.

The project's first phase, which covers 60 hectares of development, may be completed in two to three years' time at an estimated cost of not less than P1 billion to P5 billion in investments.

Water availability and other technological enhancements such as Wi-Fi connections for future residents are also incorporated in the initial construction stage.

"It is important that the residents of Monterrazas will have all the amenities they need," assures Alby.

He notes that city living would be like no other as they incorporate the resort living amenities to relieve urban dwellers of daily stress.

Alby adds that the Villalons are very particular with the concept of the architectural and interior designs for Monterrazas. Augusto Villalon has an extensive background in architecture.

Cebu's love for elegance

Monterrazas will make use of the contemporary Philippine architecture that usually combines artistic form and function. Its design will reveal a sense of the Cebuanos' excellent taste for elegance and traditions, Alby points out.

Since the soft launching of the Monterrazas in the second quarter of this year, residents, who would want the premiere Cebu City address in the future, have already bought property in Monterrazas.

There has been an avid interest now from property buyers from Cebu and those from other provinces. About 20 percent of the 90 lots in phase one of the Monterrazas de Cebu have been reserved by potential homeowners when Landco started to pre-sell the lots in July.

The younger Xerez-Burgos said the company began selling the premium lot areas of Peaks 1 and 2 of the entire 200-hectare property of the Villalon family.

"We want to sell from the top going down, starting with the most expensive lots, because we want to establish that this is an upscale project," he notes.

Parcels of land at the Monterrazas have sizes ranging from 600 square meters to 800 square meters and are priced between P12,000 and P15,000 per square meter.

However, the elder Xerez-Burgos says that lower-priced lots would also be offered. "Eventually, we will develop residences catering to the upper middle class," he notes. "We will make sure of that."

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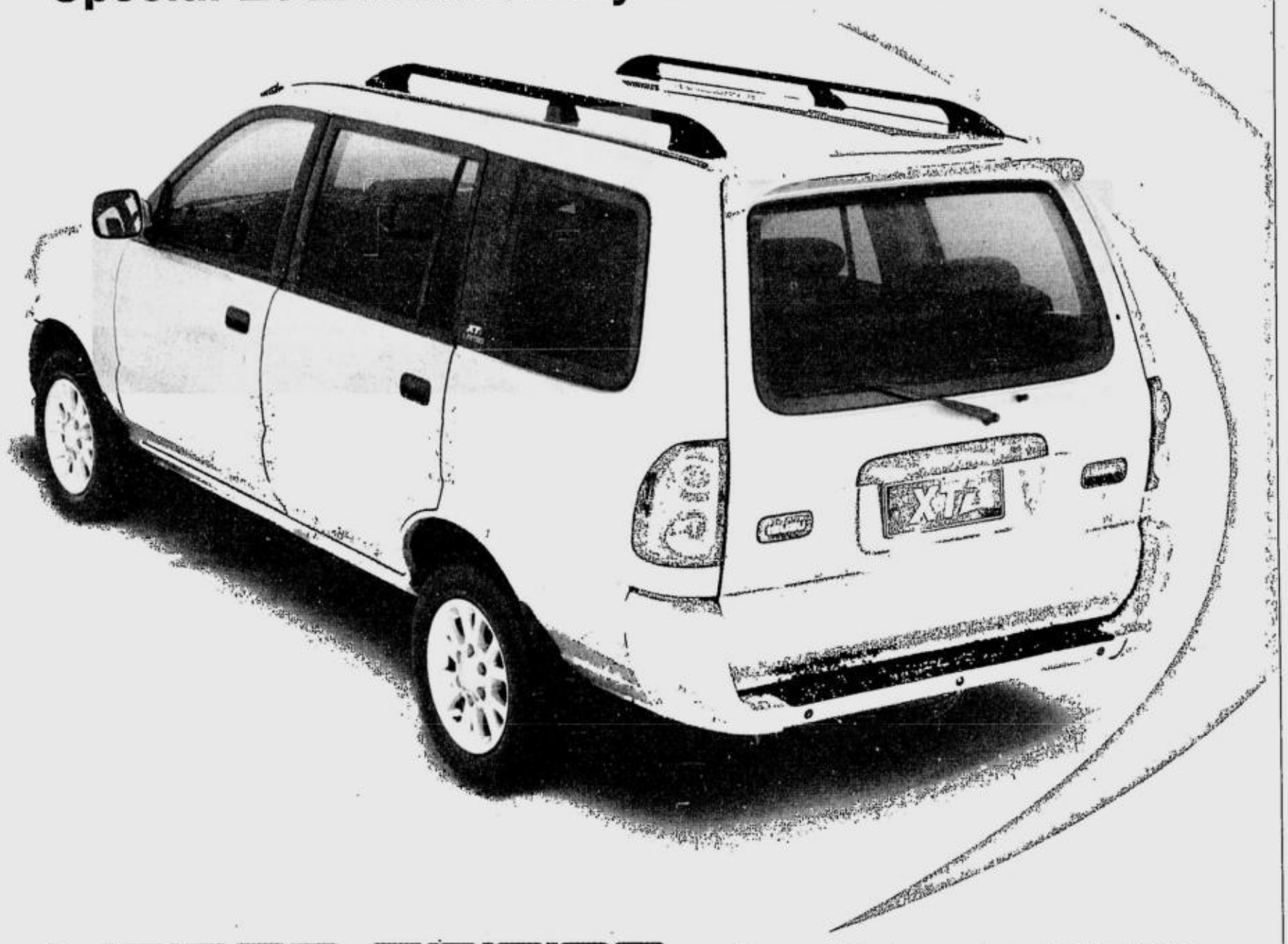

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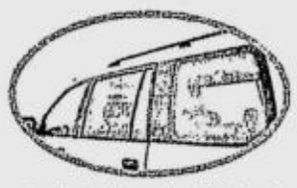
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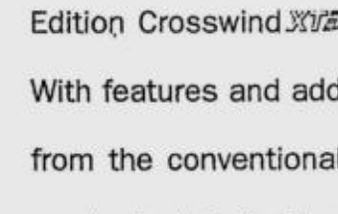
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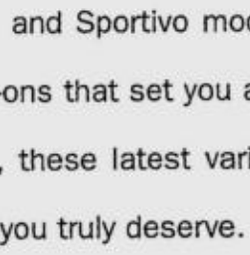
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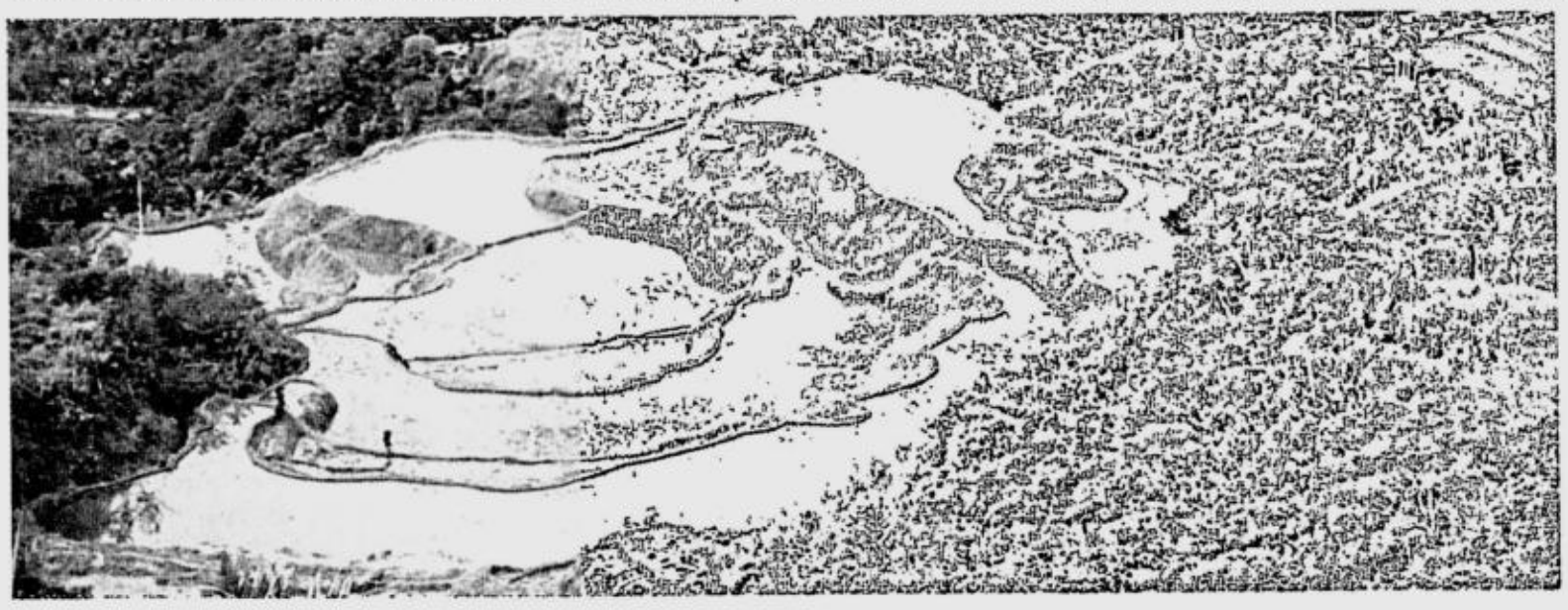

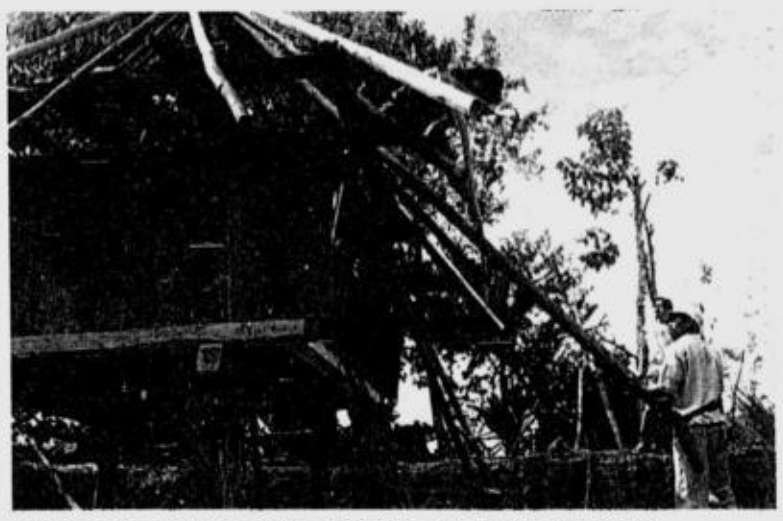

ARE the rice terraces of the Philippine Cordillera (left) still sustainable in 2007? At Lagud Village, Barangay Uhaj, Banaue, a showcase of community-based tourism, houses are being built through traditional construction methods and materials.

International heritage experts to hold meeting in the Cordilleras

PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNcil for Monuments and Sites (Icomos) is a Paris-based NGO whose members are heritage practitioners recognized and respected around the world as leaders in their field.

The organization regulates the conservation profession worldwide and advises the Unesco World Heritage Committee on cultural heritage issues. Its Philippine members are prominently involved in government and private sector conservation projects in the country and many are members of the academe.

Distinguished heritage experts from France, Italy, Germany, Macedonia, Russia, Canada, USA, Mexico, Dominican Republic, China, Japan, Korea and Australia, members of the Icomos Committee for Vernacular (Traditional) Architecture, are gathering in Banaue, Ifugao Province, on the first week of December for its annual meeting.

Meetings are held in a different country each year to provide occasions for members to share their expertise with local communities.

The 2007 meeting will take a close look at international heritage sites, vast cultural landscapes that combine natural and man-

INTERNATIONAL/ C2

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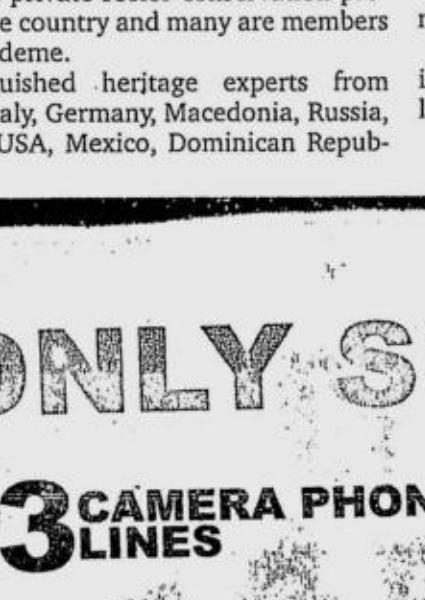

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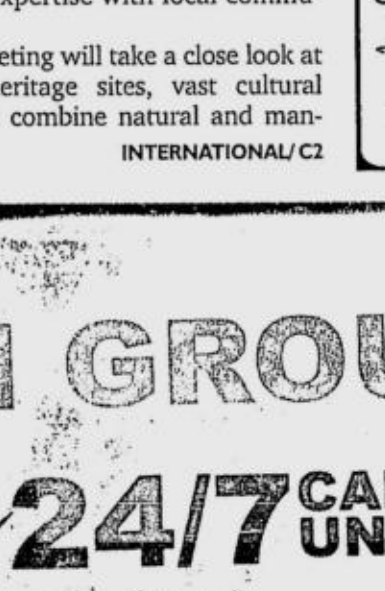

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Odd mixture of the popular and the *academic*

"CIRCO Simpao," by Santiago Bose, at the Lopez Memorial Museum

By Constantino C. Tejero

HIGH CULTURE DOESN'T HAVE to be an unreachable star. (Culture isn't just for the culturati.) In an art exhibit, one only has to focus on important issues and significant features of the subject and make these digestible for the common audience.

A case in point is the joint institutional exhibition "Zero in," which started some years ago in an art gallery and two museums. By mixing the popular and the academic, the annual cultural event has proven to be tenable and, in fact, successful that it has added more venues to its consortium.

Now on its sixth year, it opened in mid-September and extends until middle of next year in Ateneo Art Gallery, Ayala Museum, Bahay Tsinoy, Lopez Memorial Museum and Museo Pambata ng Maynila.

The various exhibits are unified by the theme of hybridity, the notion of the crossbreed in our culture. Each show, therefore, takes on "hybridization in all its forms," and the whole becomes an "exploration of likeness and variance."

As the exhibition note encapsulates it: "The specific interpretative frames constructed by each museum pitches for a critical rethinking of what and how fusions are realized."

CHILD'S ART at Museo Pambata

Ayala Museum in Makati City opened the event with "Hybridity: Mark Lewis Higgins," a fabulous collection of jewelled portraits taken from history, religion, geography and archaeology, which ran until late October.

The icon-like images, painted, collaged and heavily adorned with semi-precious stones, were inspired gins' deep interest in the hist and archaeology "in the face ing and overlapping borders."

Fissures and convergence

In "Blur," various artists exan tic polarities, dualities, fissure points at which opposites conve

Opening late last month, th runs until April 5, 2008, in Lop rial Museum, G/F, Benpres Bui change Rd. cor. Meralco Ave Center, Pasig City.

"Comida China" demonstr Chinese dishes have been through the years—*lumpiang* and *pancit* Canton being some examples of such hybrid food before fusion cuisine became tre

Opening last Saturday, the ex until Dec. 5 at Bahay Tsinoy (M Chinese in Philippine Life); Kai King Heritage Center, 32 Anda

International heritage experts to hold . . .

From page C1

made qualities. It will focus on the human dimension to conservation, the necessity for community participation for preservation of heritage sites.

Examples will be presented showing different approaches to the preservation of heritage sites that have found means to upgrade the quality of life of the resident community.

Various Philippine projects that have successfully used heritage as a resource for income-generation to benefit local communities will be presented. These projects, now uplifting communities in southern Cebu, Bohol, Taal, Ifugao, show the Philippines has succeeded with innovative approaches to heritage conservation.

Heritage, after all, is a highly underutilized resource for sustainable income-generation and nation-building. The Icomos meeting is determined to find innovative methods to preserve heritage in a sustainable manner that benefits communities living in heritage sites.

Ideal setting

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera is an ideal setting for the meeting. The outstanding, complex site is one of the few in the world that combine the works of nature and man that are, like many other similar sites, having difficulty sustaining themselves in the 21st century.

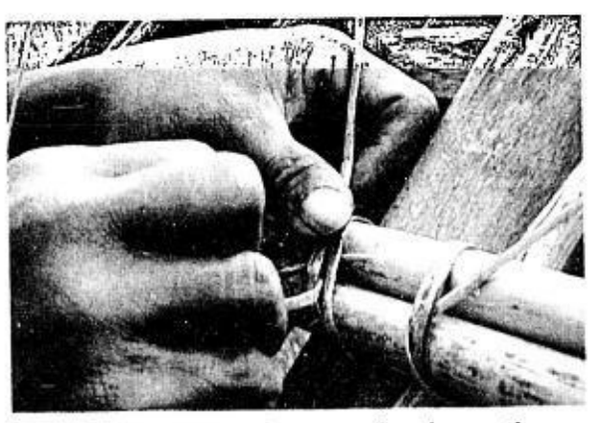
Constructed with traditional methods which have remained the same through at least a millennium, manmade terraces of breathtaking beauty cut into high mountain slopes of the Philippine Cordillera coexist with once-sustainable traditional agriculture, forest management and water distribution methods which are now finding difficulty continuing into the present day.

The survival of the terraces is not dependent on simply mending falling terrace walls. Complicating the issue of site preservation is that the lifestyle of terrace inhabitants is increasingly difficult to maintain as civilization and technology progress into the modern era.

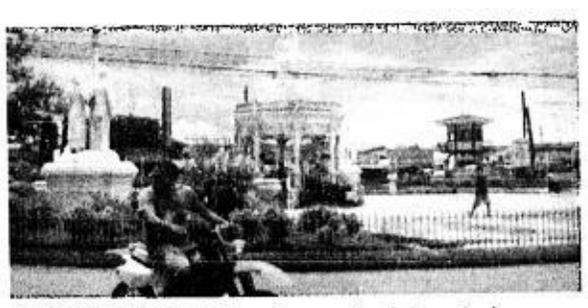
Conserving heritage has little relevance to most site residents who live on a day-to-day survival mode. Therefore, Icomos aims to make them aware that among the values of heritage is its use (not exploitation) as a sustainable cultural and eco-tourism resource, and, therefore, heritage must be preserved as a livelihood opportunity and also for community identity.

RUINED Spanish colonial church in Escalante, Negros Occidental, a heritage resource waiting for reuse

WHAT are the heritage tourism possibilities that will keep traditional bamboo and *nipa* houses alive?



HAND-TIED rattan strips secure bamboo to the roof framing of a traditional Ifugao house.



IS THE DELICATE American colonial-period *glorieta* at the Carcar *rotonda* in Cebu a useless monument for the 21st century?

Training of Philippine conservation practitioners is another objective of the meeting. Since conservation courses are not offered in Philippine universities, the presence of foreign colleagues is a rare opportunity for Icomos Philippine committee members and other heritage professionals working in the country to widen their personal international networks and to upgrade professional skills.

Partnering with Icomos National Commission Philippines are the United States Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, Network of Expertise for the Global Environment (e8); Tokyo Electric Power Company; Fundación Santiago; Department of Tourism; Ayala Foundation; and National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Environmental planners

The 2007 National Convention of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) will be held Nov. 23-24 at Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue, Quezon City.

This year's theme is "Enhancing Local Economic Development through More Effective Planning." It showcases the "Best Practices" of local government initiatives in increasing local revenues, attracting private investments, and improving local economic productivity.

The theme recognizes the need of most LGUs to increase their revenues and expand job opportunities to improve the living and working conditions of their citizens.

PIEP also acknowledges that many LGUs have initiated innovative approaches to address such challenges, and their lessons will be shared with the audience.

Co-sponsors are the League of Municipalities; League of Cities; and League of Provinces, with LGU mayors and governors expected to make presentations.

For information on Icomos, visit www.icomos.org or icomosphilippines.blogspot.com. Contact Arlene Guarin-Ty of the PIEP Secretariat at 9209705, fax 9273595, or e-mail piep_secretariat@yahoo.com.

E-mail feedback to pride.place@gmail.com

UST Museum show focuses on Vigan as heritage city

THE CENTER FOR THE CONSERvation of the Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCPET) of the University of Santo Tomas will open the exhibit "Mapping the Past, Charting the Future: The Cultural Mapping Project of the Heritage City of Vigan" Nov. 16, 4 p.m., at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences.

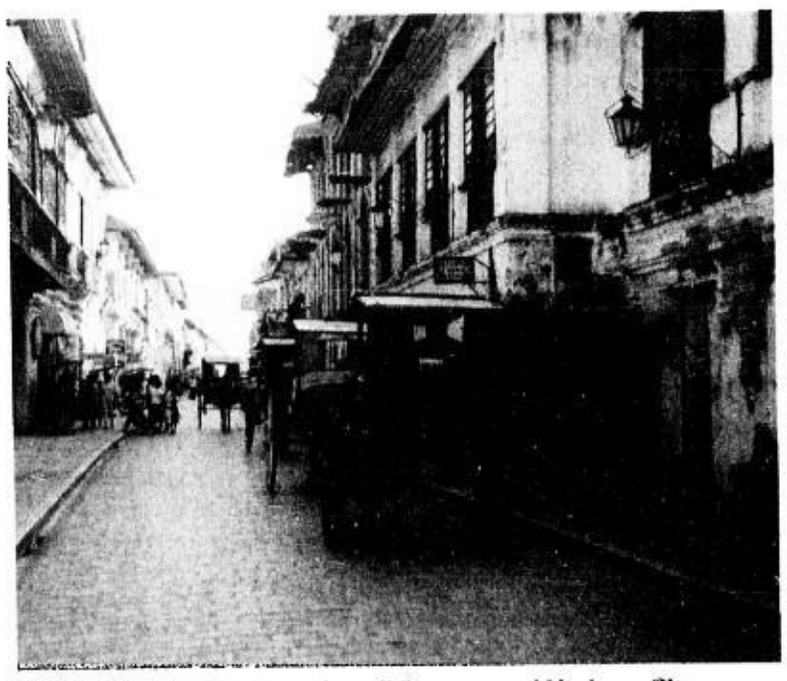
Guests of honor are Vigan City Mayor Eva Marie Medina, a UST Architecture alumna, and deputy executive director Emilie V. Tiongco of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The opening ceremony will be highlighted by a stage play on ancestral houses heritage issues to be performed by the Bohol theater group.

The two-part exhibit aims to visually present the process of cultural mapping and its significance in community development. The first part features documented heritage resources—natural, built, intangible and movable heritages. The second part illustrates the applications of this heritage documentation on other salient activities such as policy-making, architectural planning, curriculum and product development.

The CCPET is the research arm of the UST Museum, the country's oldest museum, and the flagship body of all heritage research concerns in UST, Asia's oldest university. CCPET officials include heritage experts Eric Zerrudo and Regalado Trota José, who also teach at the Cultural Heritage Studies program of the UST Graduate School.

The exhibit will run until Nov. 29. Museum hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m, Tuesday to Saturday. Call 7811815 or 4061611 locals 8269 and 8337.



WELL-PRESERVED old section of Vigan, named Heritage City by Unesco

VISUAL ARTS

Paderna returns

After two decades of living and working in the United States, Rafael Paderna returns with "Inner Landscape," to be unveiled Nov. 15 at Ricco-Renzo Galleries (Nicanor Garcia St., Makati City). Special guest is Paulino Que. The abstract series rendered in acrylic features beguiling colors and a placid mood inviting viewers to meditation. A Fine Arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, Paderna received gold medals for sculpture at the Art Association of the Philippines competition in 1981 and 1997. In the US, the Anaheim Art Association in California gave him First Prize in painting in 1996 and the Jurors' Choice award in 1994. Paderna's contemporaries include fellow UST alumni Tam Austria, Raul Isidro and Edgar Doctor. Call 8982543/2545.

"GESTURES for a River," by Nestor Olarte Vinluan

Vinluan at West

Nestor Olarte Vinluan presents "From Künstlerhaus and Other Recent Works," until Nov. 20 at West Gallery and Finale Art File (Artwalk, 4/L SM Megamall, tel. 6341284 and 6342411). The works on paper were inspired by what Vinluan saw and experienced in Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart.

Shellshear, Lodronio at De las Islas

Galeria de las Islas (3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila) presents "Extremes," until Nov. 30, featuring Australian artist Mark Shellshear with Danilo Sola Lodronio. Shellshear, a former Philippine resident, adapts the Aboriginal style in his art in depicting typical market and street scenes. Lodronio's works are in mixed media, collage and monoprints. Call 5272113.

UST alumni at Metro

Ugnayan '80, which groups together UST alumni artists, is holding its annual art exhibit, until Nov. 30, in Metro Gallery, 455 P. Guevarra St., San Juan City. Featured are Domingo Alconaba, Antonio Austria, Charlito Bitanga, José Blanco, Pag-Asa "Boy" Estrella, Editha Mata-Guerrero, Pablo Javier, Renato Quiroz, Lourdes Riu-Andrews, Mario Santiago, Koni Samson-Sayo, Ruben Sindac, Lina Velas-Sotto and Romeo Velasco Jr. Call 4152452, 9283795 and 9614458.

"CHROMESCAPE Series (Blue)," by Aaron Bautista

Bautista at Second

Aaron Bautista presents his latest paintings in "Concrete Scapes," until Nov. 18 in Second Gallery, 217 Dona Aurora St., Angono, Rizal. In his abstractions, the visual style suggests a quickly pulsating composition with rhythmic stimulation.

Masters at Davao Museum

Ayala Museum and Davao Museum present "Museum in a Box: Traveling Exhibit of the Pioneers in Philippine Art: Luna, Amorsolo, Zobel," Nov. 12-30 in Davao Museum. The exhibit features 38 finely reproduced paintings which chronicle 100 years of Philippine painting from the late 19th to the 20th century, in the works of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel. Call 7577117 or (082)2331734.

"MANILA Cathedral," by Lim Ling Chuan

Lim at Genesis

Gallery Genesis (4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City) presents "Works of Lim Ling Chuan," Nov. 12-26. The 12th one-man show of Lim features familiar Manila landscapes rendered in oil. Call 6338137.

"AUTUMN Morn," by Dan Reventar

Reventar at Ayala

Dan Reventar presents his third solo exhibit, "Shining through," until Nov. 19 in ArtistSpace at Ayala Museum. The subjects are lush scenery, majestic sunsets and peaceful waters. Call 7577117-21 loc. 31.

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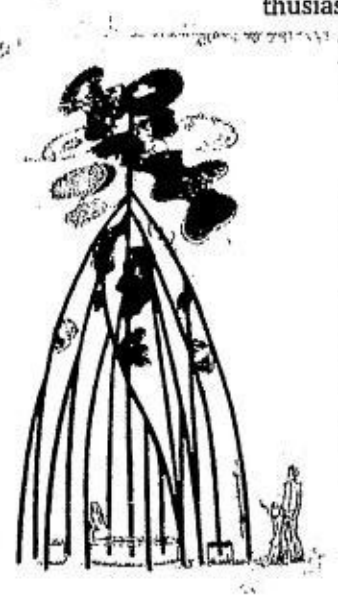
"PALMYRA," by Mark Higgins, at Ateneo Art Gallery



STUDY for "The Mangrove—Nature's Embrace," by Impy Pilapil, at Ateneo Art Gallery

ben from the collection of Leovino Ma. Garcia, who also curates, thus highlighting the "largely examined relationship between the visual artist and the art enthusiast in Philippine setting."

The show, meant to illustrate a fusion of worlds and a meeting of minds (of the artist and the collector), will be mounted on Nov. 21-Feb. 15 in Ateneo Art Gallery, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Finally, "Interactive: 12 Human Senses" showcases Impy Pilapil's large sculptures installed in the front and side gardens of Ateneo Art Gallery from Nov. 26 to March 31.

The exhibition note explains it is an interactive installation reflective of Rudolph Steiner's 12 senses: completely external (sense of ego, thought, word and hearing); completely internal (sense of balance, movement, life and touch); and external-internal (sense of warmth, sight, taste and smell).

The outdoor sculptures are intended for viewers' direct and physical participation, so that they may have "a full-bodied experience that also engages the mind."

These are really simple ideas the common *tao* can easily comprehend. It's just that too often academicism cloaks them with pedantry, thus inadvertently screening them off from the audience, so that "culture" attains the mystique of being a personal property of the few.

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do St., Intramuros, Manila.

"Child's ART (Advocacy, Rights and Thoughts)" comprises paintings, literary works, media arts and musical performances by the Angono Regional Pilot School for the Arts and the Museo Pambata's advocacy program.

Integrating art and social issues concerning children, the collaborative show will run Nov. 17-Jan. 31 at the Karapatan Hall of Museo Pambata, Roxas Blvd. cor. South Dr., Ermita, Manila.

Mind and body experience

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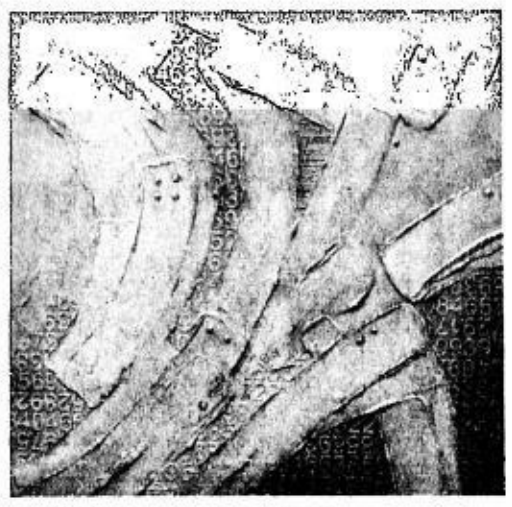
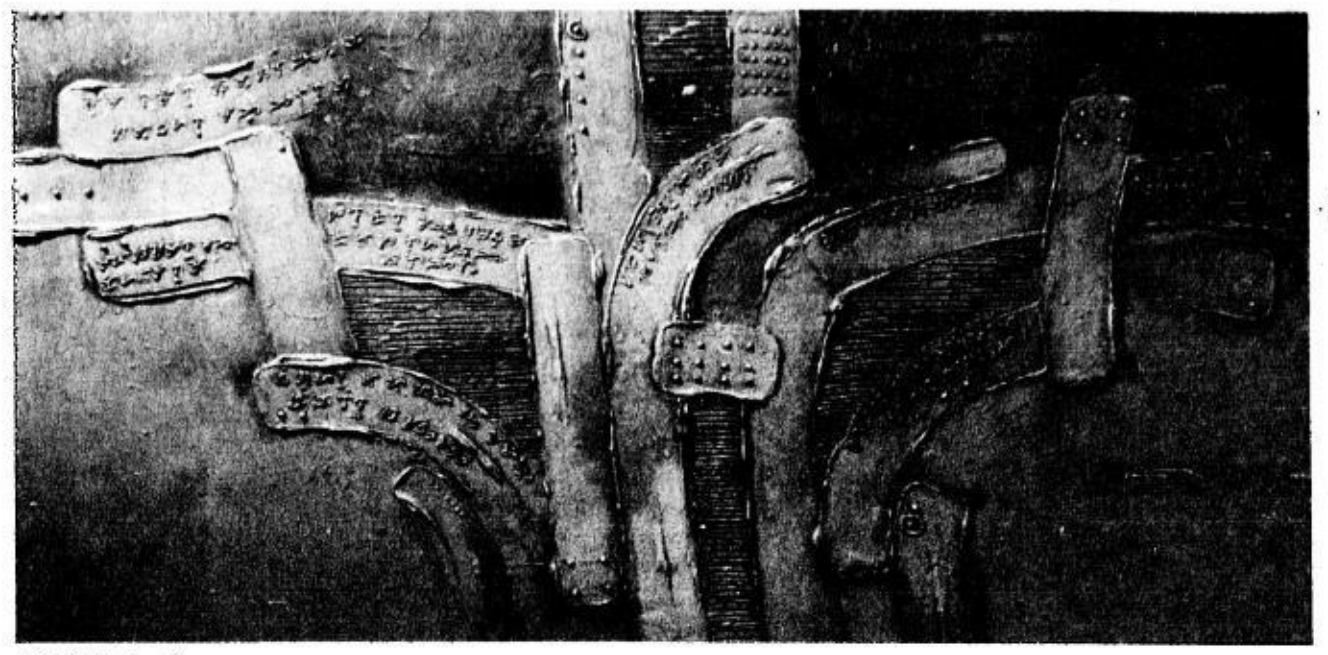
"ABSTRACT by Numbers," 8



"ABSTRACT by Numbers,"2



"OUR Father"

WILFREDO OFFEMARIA'S 'FONT'

Timely meditations on timeless aspirations

By Gary C. Devilles
Contributor

ABSTRACTIONISTS ARE KNOWN to depict the world as how we live it. Wilfredo "Offe" Offemaria is no stranger to this as he presents our collective experience in "Font," at Blanc Art Space, 2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati.

Offemaria majored in Painting at the University of Santo Tomas. His creative prowess earned him the Grand Prize in the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Diwa ng Sining Art Competition. His works have also garnered citations from the Philip Morris Asean art awards, Art Association of the Philippines Annual, and Metrobank National.

Offe has exhibited in Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Germany.

Through broad strokes, metallic colors, textures, numbers and typefaces, the current works assume an opportune meditative stance for us who experience today the contradictions and follies of modernity, in which people become mere figures in the grand equation of global labor surplus. We have reached a condition of tedium and restlessness where life seems to offer nothing original or unfamiliar.

The numbers connote the infinite series, a constant repetition, as we live our days punctuated by our meager salaries on the 15th and 30th days of the month, living on bare subsistence, enough to make it through days that become weeks, months, years. Numbers are accumulative as depicted, but our condition is regressive, and the absence of people in these works is an indication of our eventual effacement.

The numbers also connote the kind of sophistication we are supposed to achieve with progress and technological development.

However, what is staggering is not the economic growth as reported by our economists but the overwhelming poverty index.

We live with the illusion that technology connects us when cellular phones and computers are stark reminders and palpable manifestations also of our disconnectedness, isolation, alienation.

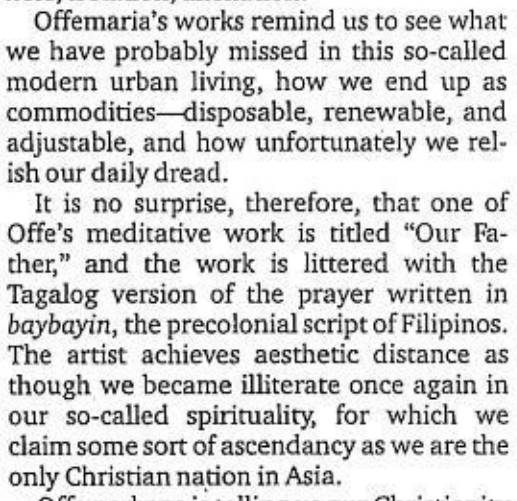
Offemaria's works remind us to see what we have probably missed in this so-called modern urban living, how we end up as commodities—disposable, renewable, and adjustable, and how unfortunately we relish our daily dread.

It is no surprise, therefore, that one of Offe's meditative work is titled "Our Father," and the work is littered with the Tagalog version of the prayer written in *baybayin*, the precolonial script of Filipinos. The artist achieves aesthetic distance as though we became illiterate once again in our so-called spirituality, for which we claim some sort of ascendancy as we are the only Christian nation in Asia.

Offe perhaps is telling us our Christianity is much deeper than the recitations of formulaic prayers, and Christianity consists also in opening our eyes to perceive who and what we are in time, when our forefathers started a community along the shore, when life was much simpler but had more sense, and they aspired for harmony with nature.

It is in these trying times that Offe's works become politically significant. The numbers, the fonts and the scripts are not just graffiti, but the proverbial writing on the wall that portends our doom if we remain ignorant of our situation.

"Font" runs until Nov. 17. Call 7520032.



"EIGHT"

Shelley's visual poetry

Briton talks about the romance of children's book illustrating

By Neni Sta. Romana Cruz
Contributor

THE MANILA CHAPTER OF the Society of Children's Writers and Illustrators had a day-long workshop on illustrating for children under noted British illustrator John Shelley at the British Council in Pasig.

Shelley, who is both a children's book illustrator and freelance commercial artist, enthralled everyone with an account of his journey as an artist with much humor and candor.

Born in Birmingham, United Kingdom, to an Anglo-Welsh family, Shelley studied at Bournville School of Art. He then took up illustration at Manchester Polytechnic under children's illustrator Tony Ross, known for his humorous style.

Coming from a home where his mother was not, by his own description, very literate, and his father, not a reader of fiction, Shelley nevertheless credited his mother for exposing him to the books of her own childhood, carefully treasured in her cupboard. He said his mother's books were very different from what he had ever seen before and truly belonged to another era, another world.

He was mesmerized by what he saw, especially his rare find of an old Arthur Rackham bookmark in a gift shop: "I could not believe it was drawn by a human being."

SHELLEY/ D2

JOHN Shelley in Manila

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First academic publishing conference

NBDB Board officials—NBDB governor Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, executive director Andrea Pasion-Flores, and governing board chair Dennis T. Gonzalez

THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR ACADEMIC publishers recently met in a conference, a first in the history of publishing in the country, at the initiative of the National Book Development Board (NBDB).

Titled "Developing Local Knowledge Through Academic Publishing," the conference was designed to provide a venue for university publishing houses to share experiences and information with each other, and for interested academics from other educational institutions to consider going into publishing.

Keynote speaker was Peter Langworth, marketing director of Cambridge University Press (CUP), the oldest and one of the biggest university presses in the world. He talked about the mission of the academic press as part of every real university's mandate; and about the Cambridge experience. CUP publishes more than 2,500 new titles every year and has 26,000 titles in print, including E-books.

Ma. Luisa Camagay, director of the UP

Press, spoke of the importance attached by UP to its faculty's publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed books, and the various mechanisms to enable them to do so.

Ma. Corazon Baytion, director of the Ateneo Press, spoke on "Publishing Practices of a University Press." John Jack Wigley, assistant director of the UST Publishing House, the oldest university-based press in the country, described UST's ambitious project of publishing 400 new titles to celebrate the University's 400th anniversary in 2011.

Isagani Cruz, executive publisher of De La Salle University's Academic Publications Office and former undersecretary of the Department of Education, invited the conference participants to form an association of university- or school-based publishers for their mutual benefit.

Because the conference was attended by representatives from over 50 Philippine universities and colleges nationwide, the NBDB expects the event to stimulate an increase in quantity and quality of publications by Philippine schools, including those based in the regions.

This first academic publishing conference was co-sponsored by the Commission on Higher Education, Fuji Xerox Philippines, and Central Books Supply.

Shelley's visual poetry

From page D1

The young Shelley crammed his old exercise books with drawings of galleons and fighting figures from the comic-book art that he studiously copied. He remembered fondly an Argentinian DC comic book illustrator José Maria Jorge, another major influence on his art.

Much of his inspiration for his stories comes from the Sutton Park of his Birmingham childhood, "I delve into my past for inspiration." The park had woods and streams and canals, ideal for any lover of folk tales. "I was always hanging out in the countryside, reading. Among my siblings, I was considered the boring one because while my older siblings were looking for dates, I was sitting in the park, sketching and looking for fairies." And on rainy days when staying outdoors was not possible, I'd fill my head with children's books."

Japanese art lover

He has lived in Tokyo for the past 20 years. He left a promising career in advertising and children's books in the UK because of his deep interest in Japanese art.

In examining the art of the British illustrators he so admired like Arthur Rackham ("Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens"), Ernest H. Shepard ("Wind in the Willows"), and Edward Ardizzone ("Little Tim" series), Shelley had realized they were influenced by Japanese 18th-century woodblock prints and paintings called Ukiyo-e, which means "pictures of the floating world." It is the main artistic genre of woodblock printing in Japan.

He went to Japan to "sketch and search for the 'missing link' between samurai and Sony."

The Japanese have an intuitive, almost natural, sense of design and space, he said.

But he still feels like a stranger in Japan, not knowing how to read the language. He feels handicapped and totally depends on his Japanese wife, Makiko, to read Japanese.

His career in Japan today is divided between 20-percent commercial art and 80-percent illustrations for children's books.

Shelley's award-winning commercial art has been used in animated TV ads, poster and newspaper campaigns. His first major picture book, "The Secret in the Matchbox," was a 1989 Mother Goose Award runner-up. His more recent works are illustrations for a four-volume series in Japanese of the Hans Christian Andersen folk tales to commemorate the bicentennial of the author. Shelley's illustrations for the "Month Brothers" tale borrowed references from history, military history, even from Napoleon's battle scene!

"I do everything in pen and ink. All that I need for my art are pen, ink, nibs, and paper," Shelley said. He does not create computer illustrations, happy with his art that is not seamless and shows evidence of crudity.

He also prefers to illustrate the stories of other writers, confessing to having a difficulty to illustrating his own stories and to being inspired by the text of other writers.

His secret in illustrating for children: "Rather than looking at other children, I look for the child in me."

His advice to writers and illustrators: "It's more important to worry about what you have to say, rather than how to say it."

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People and may be reached at nenisrc@gmail.com.

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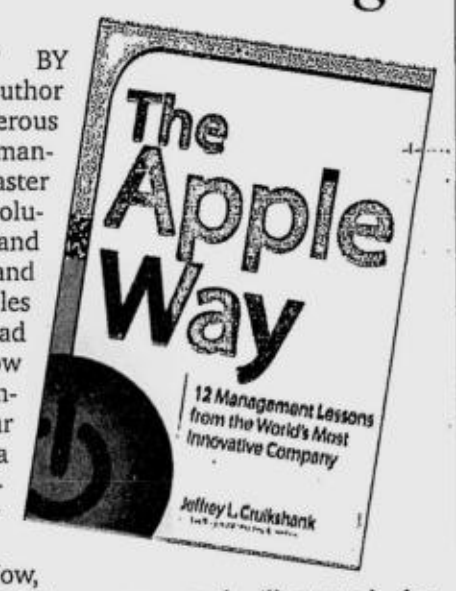
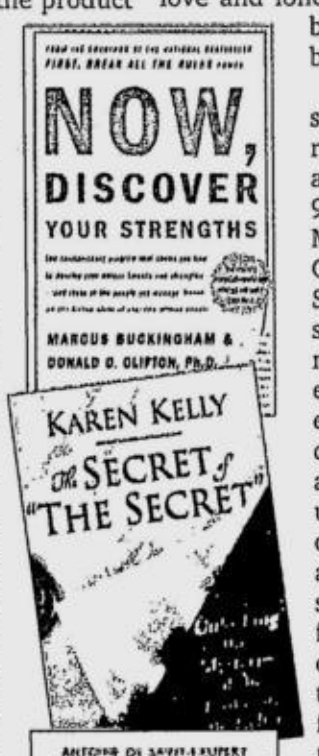
Recommended readings

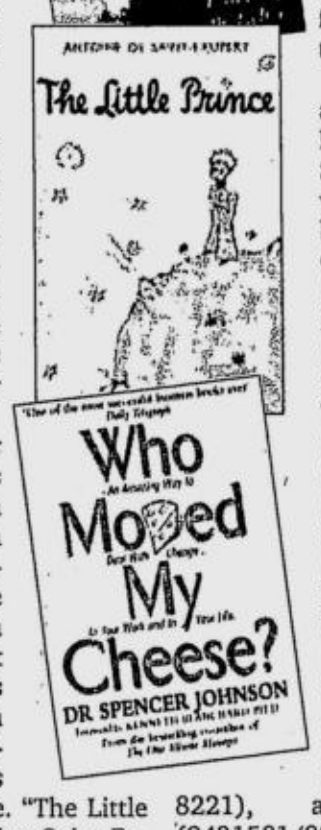


"THE APPLE WAY" BY Jeffrey L. Cruikshank, author or co-author of numerous books for practicing managers, reveals the master plan behind Apple's revolutionary business model and divulges the secrets and management principles that keep Apple far ahead of the curve. Find out how to implement these winning strategies in your organization to trigger a technological and stylistic revolution of your own.

At the heart of "Now, Discover Your Strengths," is the Internet-based StrengthsFinder® Profile, the product of a 25-year, multimillion dollar effort to identify the most prevalent human strengths. The program introduces 34 dominant "themes" and reveals how they can best be translated into personal and career success.



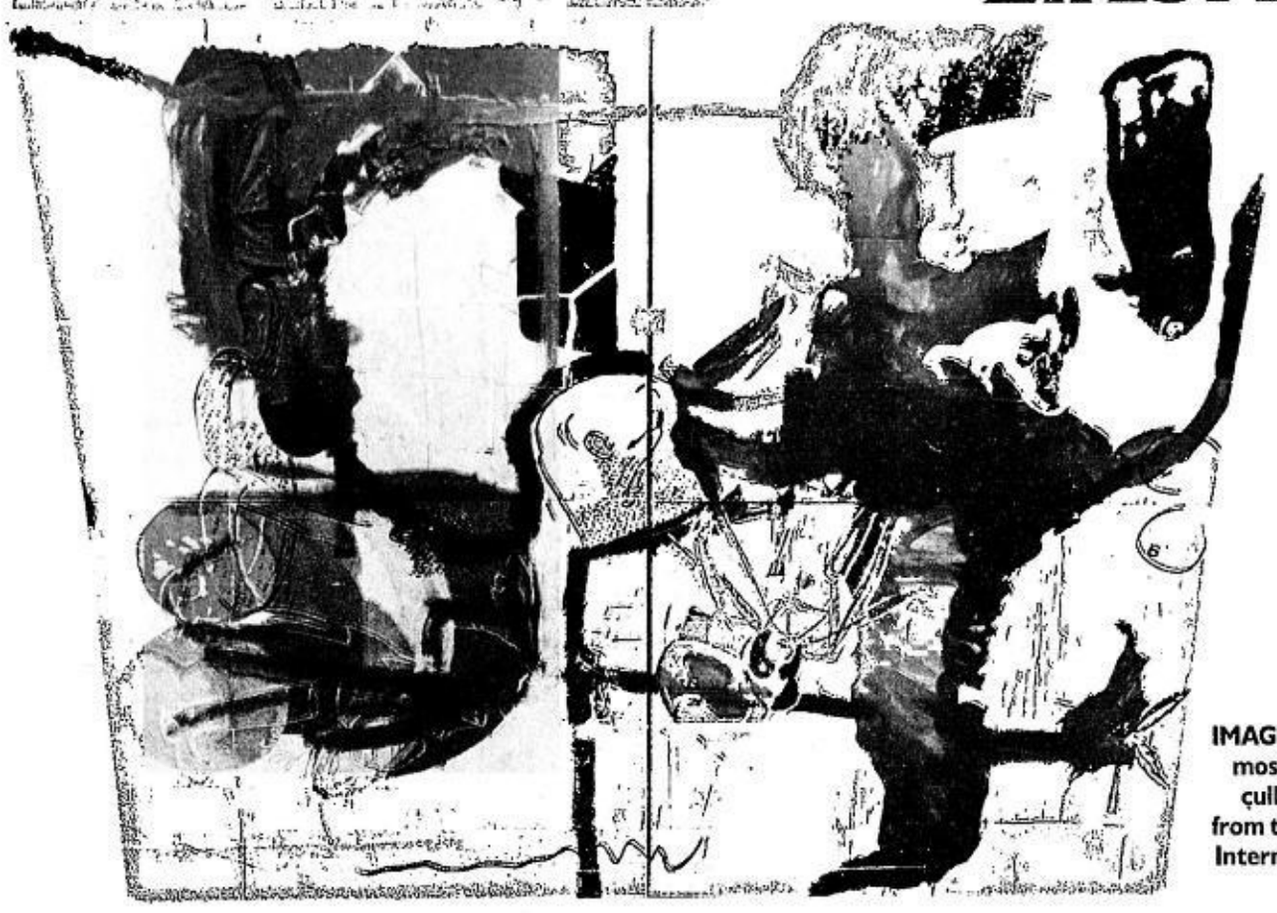
"The Secret" explores the explosive success of book of the same name as well as the intriguing people and ideas behind it. Karen Kelly delves into this extraordinary phenomenon, investigates why this little book has affected so many, and answers the burning questions behind one of the biggest success stories of our time.



An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life. "The Little Prince" by Antoine Saint-Exupery and illustrated by Richard Howard is the tale of love and loneliness that has become a beloved classic.

Sometimes simple problems require simple answers. In just 96 pages, "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson uses simple metaphors to encourage readers to embrace change and to adapt to new situations with an open mind and a motivated spirit. It follows four fictional characters as they search for fulfillment in the maze of life.

The books are available at Powerbooks Specialty Store, which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29), Megamall (635-2898 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63), Glorietta 3 (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/ 524-3448); Mall of Asia (5560244), Festival Supermall (850-8221), and TriNoma (9431581/82).



IMAGES mostly culled from the Internet

Oliveria's rats and painting

MANY WISH TO BE BORN RICH. BUT A rat is born the same way as all his ancestors had been—as scavengers on the constant hunt for food, mainly from the debris of human consumption.

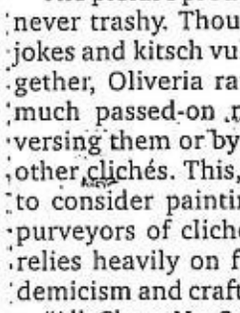
Jayson Oliveria, in his latest show "All Clues No Solutions," opening at Mo_space this month, bluntly states such comparison between rats and painting. The images he uses for his paintings, mostly culled from the Internet and blindly Googled through jokey tagged phrases, are all flattened. No subject is differentiated or given higher importance, as a trash compactor would to a heap of junk thrown into its gaping crunching-machine mouth.

The picture produced is quite messy but never trashy. Though all the clichés, bad jokes and kitsch vulgar imagery merge together, Oliveria rather undermines their much passed-on meaning either by reversing them or by clashing them against other clichés. This, in view of painting, is to consider painting as but one of such purveyors of clichés, especially one that relies heavily on formula, on much academicism and craft.

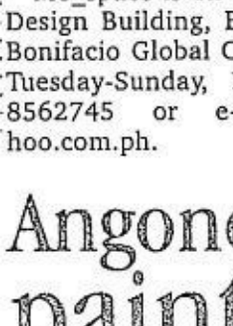
"All Clues No Solutions" is curated by Roberto Chabet.

Mo_space is on the third level of Mos Design Building, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. It is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 8562745 or e-mail mo.space@yahoo.com.ph.

Angono artists paint folk colors



"MOTHER and Child," by Maia Francisco



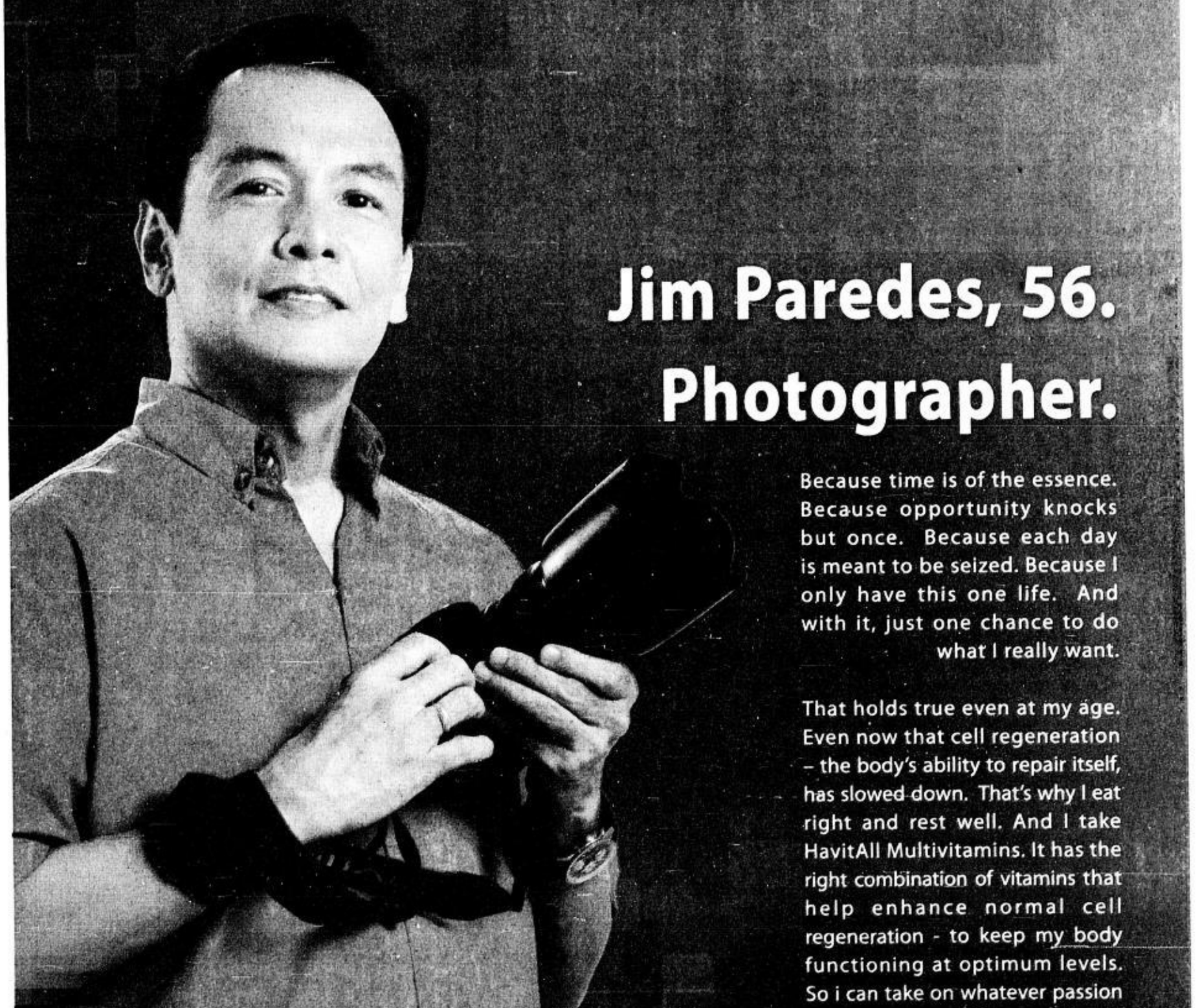
"HARVEST," by Jun Espiritu

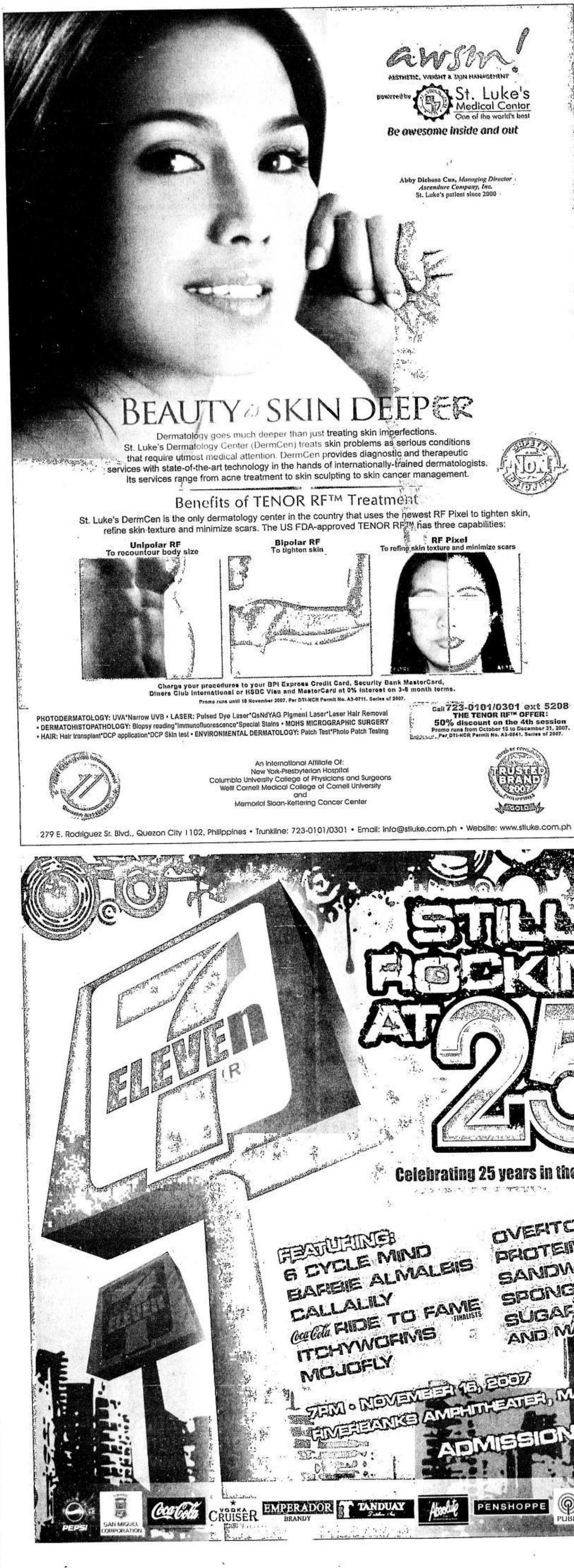
"GRUPO ANGONO" IS a group exhibition in Galeria Fernando Artes, Casa Susana, Casa Vicente (across Alabang Town Center), Madrigal Avenue, Alabang.

Featured are the works of Angono artists such as Felix Amoncio, Jun Espiritu, Mitch Doren, Manuel Unidad, Rodie Julian, Maia Francisco, Carlos "Totong" Francisco, Ember Crisostomo.

The show runs until Nov. 15. Call 9060809 or 0928-2188516.

"BLOWING Bubbles," by Rodie Julian





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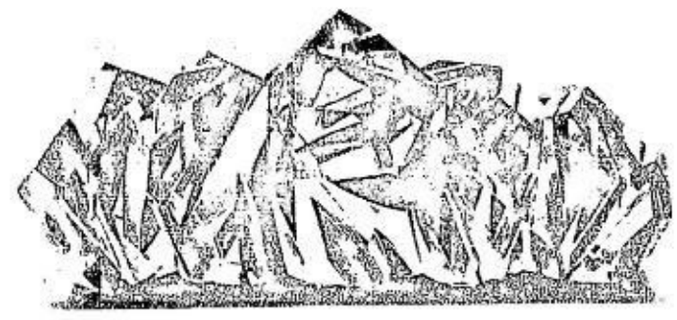
"PICASSO Gemini" II

Orlina's new glass works in 'Essence'



"MT. MAKILING"

GLASS SCULPTOR RAMON ORLINA shows his latest masterpieces in Art Verite Gallery, 2/F, Shops at Serendra, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City (tel. 9151982). The exhibit will run Nov. 17-26.

The bulk of the work consists of carved Asahi glass with its familiar green color the artist uses for various subjects, abstract or figurative. The Mother and Child theme is rendered in cubistic form or in the figurative mode with soft, curvilinear lines.

Orlina continues to explore the individual female nude in an interplay of exterior and interior in which the figure exhibits a fascinating complexity of inner form with its intricate crevices, passages and chambers that can absorb the viewer's attention for a length of time.

He also returns to an earlier series, the "Ningning" sculptures, which focuses on the female breast. He resumes the earlier "Pintado" series, marked by incised tattoo designs on the surface of the figure.

Says art critic Rod Paras-Perez: "Orlina is the architect-turned-sculptor who has made glass and crystals his particular métier and signature. Starting a career with simply faceted glass blocks, he has through the years turned the intrinsic icy coldness of glass into elegant receptacles of green fire. Eventually the sensuousness of the nude was suggested."

The works bear the marks of the artist's hand in the various processes of cutting, grinding, polishing. From carved green Asahi glass, he experimented with white crystal of a high lead content, as well on color in previous pieces of Swarovski red or other hues.

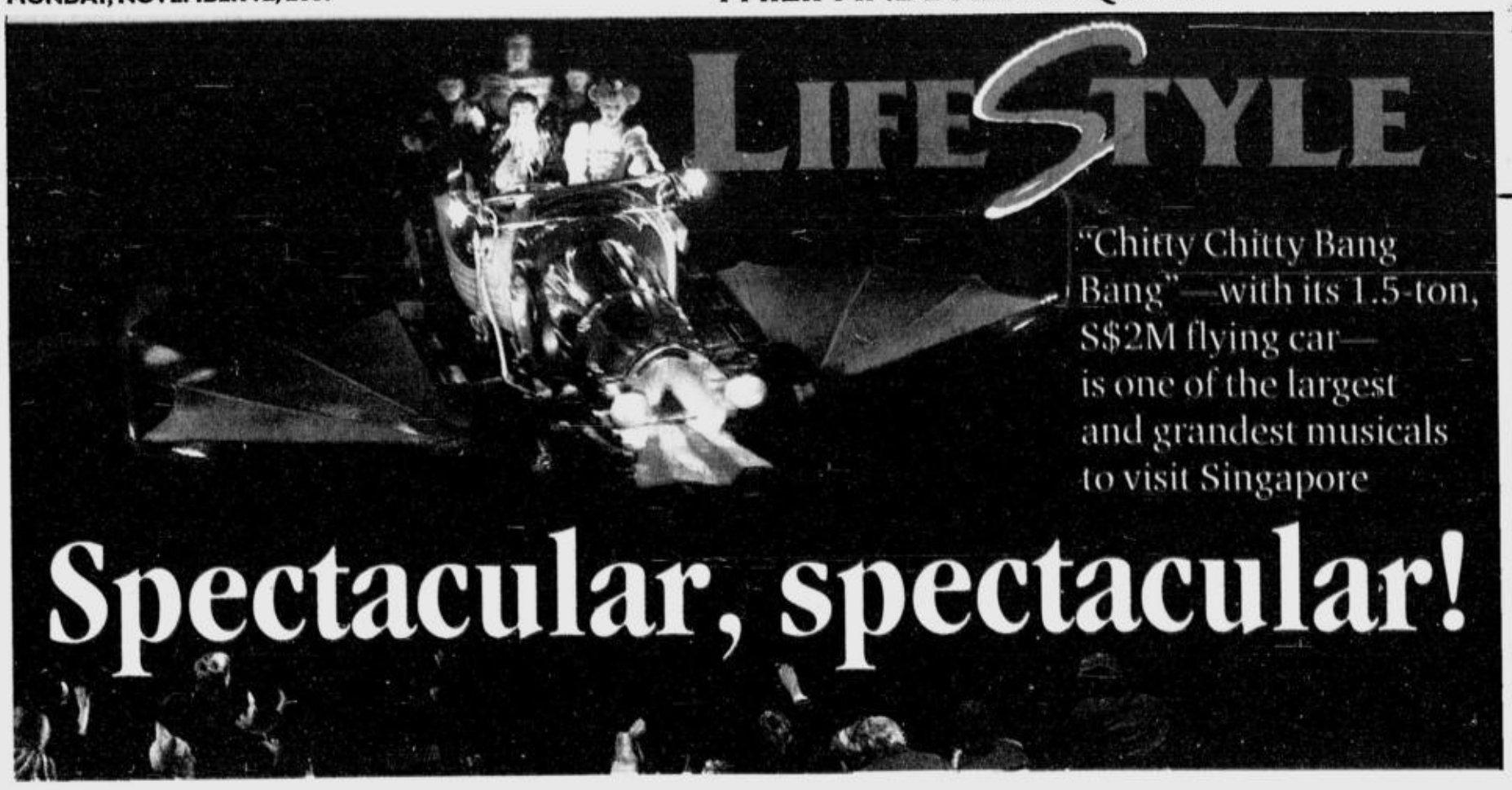
In this exhibit, he continues with some pieces of frosted glass, which require a slightly different process, and handles amber-colored Chinese crystal with its striking tone, as well as black glass. But a new discovery is in the bronze cast "Picasso Gemini" II, executed in the lost wax process on the glass prototype with the resulting figure in molded bronze.

The largest work in the show is "Mt. Makiling," a complex composition of five pieces of carved glass placed together.

Says art critic Alice Guillermo: "'Mt. Makiling' in carved Asahi glass of darker tones shows the different passages of ascent to the mountain from its base to its many twisting and turning paths leading to its main peak with cliffs and ravines along the way. These are powerfully rendered in glass, in interrelated cuts and facets that constantly reveal unexpected vistas and surprises, indeed, a piece for hours of admiring contemplation."

"GREAT Expectations"

"NINGNING" XIV



LIFESTYLE

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang"—with its 1.5-ton, S$2M flying car—is one of the largest and grandest musicals to visit Singapore

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By Rowena C. Burgos

IT'S ACT 2 AND THE children in tonight's crowd are showing their displeasure at the nastiest character in the musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," ongoing until Dec. 9 at Esplanade Theatre in Singapore.

Sure, a life-size car has just floated on water and flown in the air, real dogs have dashed across the stage and the lead actor has just done a wonderfully intricate dance using bamboo sticks.

But why the hissing when a bogeyman called the Child Catcher steps onstage?

"When I stand there, I want them to go 'woooo'," said Richard O'Brien, the actor who plays the genuinely creepy villain in the two-hour and 45-minute musical.

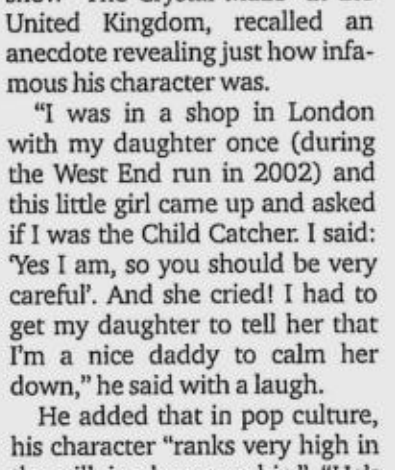
The British stage actor, who is known for penning the cult musical "The Rocky Horror Show" and hosting the famous TV game show "The Crystal Maze" in the United Kingdom, recalled an anecdote revealing just how infamous his character was.

"I was in a shop in London with my daughter once (during the West End run in 2002) and this little girl came up and asked if I was the Child Catcher. I said: 'Yes I am, so you should be very careful'. And she cried! I had to get my daughter to tell her that I'm a nice daddy to calm her down," he said with a laugh.

He added that in pop culture, his character "ranks very high in the villain demographic." "He's got a pointy nose and pointy ears—he's not human. I can't imagine him going home to sleep, can you?"

Colorful villains

Aside from the Child Catcher, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," based on both the original novel by James Bond creator Ian Fleming and the 1968 cult movie starring Dick Van Dyke, has other equally colorful characters.



RICHARD O'Brien as the Child Catcher; (below) David Henry and Louise Plowright as the Baron and Baroness Bomburst

JAYMZ Denning and Cornelius Clarke portray Boris and Goran.

These include Baron and Baroness Bomburst and Vulgarian agents Boris and Goran, among others.

As Baron and Baroness Bomburst, David Henry and Louise Plowright terrorize the citizens of Vulgaria with their dictatorial ways while delighting audiences with their comic timing and delivery.

Describing their characters as a kind of "Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun," Plowright described Vulgaria as a place where "things are slightly skewed."

Added Henry, "The Baron rules with an iron hand but his mental age is nine. We try to have parallels with modern despots who could have people killed just like that, but also have some strange undercurrent in their lives as well."

For Henry, a tall man with a face that can look fierce, the key was getting in touch with his childlike side. For much of the time he is onstage, he bounces around like an overgrown kid, whining for toys he wants and pouting when things don't go his way.

"I think kids laugh at me at times because they recognize their own similar behavior, but it's the adults that know what it really is," Henry said. "Every wife is probably looking up there going, 'That's my husband.'"

The Baron and Baroness both seem a tad immature to be ruling a country. Besides the Baron's temper tantrums, the Baroness is afraid of children to the point that they employ the evil Child Catcher to round up any kid that slips into Vulgaria.

Plowright also decided to play the Baroness as if she were slightly "medicated," with no real sense of reality. In one scene, the Baroness accidentally shoots one of her subjects while she is cleaning a gun, punctuating the moment with a droll "whoopsy daisy."

"We know we're playing 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,' but we did talk about different heads of state and how there's no conscience there and no value for life and there's this entitlement," Plowright said. "That kind of stuff, if you take it into some quirky, childlike imagination, it can be a lot of fun."

And it's been well-received. "They're out there at their peak power," said James Cundall, chief executive officer of Lunchbox Theatrical Productions which produces the show with David Atkins Enterprises. "It's sort of a valedictory performance for the two of them."

Comic team

The tongue-in-cheek allusions to Nazi Germany continue with the musical's resident comic tag team, Boris and Goran,

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MESSAGES

Congratulations to the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) on the occasion of your 8th National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week (SKINWEEK) to be conducted on November 12-14, 2007.

Your firm commitment in the continuous upgrade and enhancement of your knowledge and skills in the field of Dermatology is indeed laudable and deserves the support that the PMA can provide.

On behalf of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), allow me to express my sincere congratulations to your society headed by it President, Dr. Arnelfa Paliza for making this event a resounding success.

Mabuhay and I love you all!

JOSE ASA SABILI, M. D.
President

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the
PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY
is a recognized Specialty Society of the Philippine College of Physicians, a Specialty Division of the Philippine Medical Association.

This certification is issued as per request of the President of the Society, Dr. Arnelfa C. Paliza.

Given this 7th day of November 2007.

JOSE ASA SABILI, M. D.
President

Greetings to the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) on its 55th Anniversary that coincides with the observance of the 8th National Skin Disease and Prevention Week (SKINWEEK), its 31st Annual Convention and the 6th Regional Pediatric Conference of Dermatology.

As you emphasize the need for the continuous professional advancement of your members, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the support and achievements of your Society. May PDS continue to support our efforts to improve the dermatological health of our countrymen.

I encourage you to consolidate your efforts and resources into common convergence points as we continue to work for the attainment of our common vision of a healthy citizenry and a progressive society.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

Warmest congratulations to the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) on the occasion of your 55th foundation year this November 2007.

The Philippine College of Physicians appreciates your proactive role in its multi-sectoral Health Reform Order Education (H.E.R.O.) advocacy and is thankful for including in your calendar of activities a National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week which would benefit a lot of our public school children including their parents and teachers.

We look forward to a professionally rewarding learning experience for all the delegates during your 31st PDS Annual Convention and we wish you success in all your future endeavors.

FERNANDO G. AYUYAO, M.D., FPCP
President

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the
PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PDS)
is recognized by the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) as the sole professional society of dermatologists that can represent duly credentialed dermatologists in the Philippines under the umbrella of PCP.

This certification is being issued upon the request of PDS for whatever purpose it may serve them.

19 June 2007, City of Pasig, Metro Manila.

FERNANDO G. AYUYAO, M.D., FPCP
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55 YEARS

PDS
Philippine Dermatological Society

PHYSICIANS DEDICATED TO SKIN HEALTH

"Problema sa Balat, PDS and Katapat!"

PDS- ACCREDITED TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

Davao Medical Center
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Skin and Cancer Foundation, Inc.
University of the East-
Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center
University of the Philippines-
Philippine General Hospital
University of Santo Tomas Hospital

SKINWEEK **is a project of the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS). It is a nationwide campaign to promote proper dermatologic care through public education and early skin disease detection and/or prevention. This is consistent with the PDS vision to lead the country in the attainment of healthy skin for Filipinos through service, training and research activities.**

SKINWEEK ACTIVITIES

November 12-17
Poster Exhibits in hospitals
Posters on basic care for healthy skin, hair and nails
Information on the common skin diseases and Pediculosis capitis

November 13
15th Annual Residents' Research Forum, Northeast Greenhills Association Clubhouse, San Juan

November 14
Pre-convention Workshop
"Defying Aging...the Science of Rejuvenation"

November 15
PDS Fellowship Night

November 16
PDS Annual Business Meeting

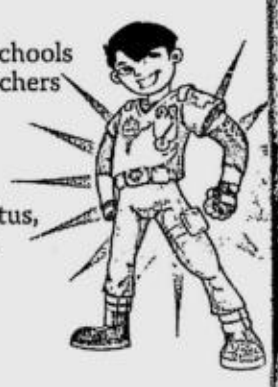
November 15 – 16
Research Poster Contest
31st Annual Convention and
6th Regional Conference of Pediatric Dermatology

"Ang Batang Walang Kuto, Mas Madaling Matuto!"

Pediculosis capitis, or "KUTO" is the third most prevalent among school children according to the Department of Education

PDS in cooperation with the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Medical Association, Department of Education and Department of Health

HERO (Health Education Reform Order) Project activities:
- Lectures/lay forum for parents and teachers in selected public schools
- Prescreening of school children by the school nurses and/or teachers
- Physical examination by the dermatologists
- Distribution of medicine to the affected school children
- Poster display regarding the prevention of "Kuto"



PDS, with the SKINWEEK, ultimately aims to uplift the health status, especially of marginalized Filipinos, through patient education and proper dermatologic care, by:

Emphasizing the importance of the skin in overall health;
Focusing on basic skin hygiene through self-examination and;
Teaching the need for seeking early care and treatment of

8th National Skin Disease Detection And Prevention Week (Skinweek)

Proclamation No. 110 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

November 11-17, 2007

S K I N W E E K

ALL OVER THE PHILIPPINES:
Community outreach thru free clinics and medicines
Public education and information thru posters and lectures

FOR THE DOCTORS:
Research competition for dermatology trainees
Continuing medical education thru convention and workshops

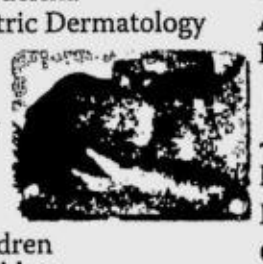
31st PDS ANNUAL CONVENTION and
6th REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY
"Nurturing the Asian Skin: Neonatal to Geriatric"
November 15 -16, 2007
EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City

Pre-Convention Workshop
"Defying Aging...the Science of Rejuvenation"
November 14, 2007

THE SCOPE OF REAL DERMATOLOGY:

From Beauty...
Dealing with Pigment Problems
– What's New? What's Best?
Non-Ablative Rejuvenation
– Options and combinations
Skin tightening Devices,
Effects and Side-effects
Fractional Resurfacing or Micro-needling?
New Uses for Old Muses
– botulinum toxin, filler, etc.
Volume in the Aging Face: Fat Grafting or Fillers?

From Conventional Treatments...
Approaches to Disorders of Pigmentation
Penicillamine in Scleroderma
Controversies in Pediatric Dermatology



From Babies...
Neonatal Dermatology
Atopic Dermatitis
Office Procedures in Pediatrics
Use of Steroids in Children
Alopecia Areata in Children
Neonatal Lupus
Juvenile Dermatomyositis

...To Serious Skin Diseases

Immunobullous Diseases in Children
Yeast Infections in Dermatology
Alopecia: Practical Tips and Insights for the Clinician
Connective Tissue Diseases
Chronic Urticaria
Emerging Infectious Diseases

...To New Technology
From Lasers and Lights to Plasma & More
Bovine Cartilage: A Breakthrough in Skincare
Advance Adipose-Derived Stem Cell Protein Extract (AAPE) on Skin Rejuvenation and Hair Growth

...To Adults
Puzzling Pigmentary Problems
Immunomodulators in Lepra Reactions
Cultural Practices and Contact Dermatitis in the Philippines
Adverse Drug Reaction: Local Experience

SPEAKERS

From Foreign Experts...
Dr. Henry H. L. Chan (Hong Kong)
Dr. Lawrence F. Eichenfield (USA)
Dr. Bernice Krafchik (Canada)
Dr. Joyce Lim (Singapore)
Dr. James J. Nordlund (USA)
Dr. Byung-Soon Park (Korea)
Dr. Maritza I. Perez (USA)
Dr. Srisupalak Singalavanija (Thailand)
Dr. Sonja Stander (Germany)
Dr. Titi Lestari Sugito (Indonesia)
Dr. Yong Kwang Tay (Singapore)
Dr. Patrick Trevidic (France)

...To Our Local Gems:
Dr. Nenita L. Alberto
Dr. Christine B. Bernal
Dr. Adolfo B. Bormate Jr.
Dr. Ma. Lorna F. Frez
Dr. Joseph Amado C. Galvez
Dr. Nancy Garcia-Tan
Dr. Florencio Lucero
Dr. Diana Payawal
Dr. Ma. Rica Silva-Mallari
Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy
Dr. Ma. Luisa Venida
Dr. Lilian L. Villafuerte

PURPOSE OF YOUR SKIN

- **The largest organ of the body, covering everything else we have!**
- **Makes us adjust to heat or cold properly**
- **It is like a mirror, to warn us if one of our inner organs is starting to get sick**

To keep your skin, hair and nails healthy, do not go just anywhere and get a facial and a body scrub. Your skin deserves the expert care of a dermatologist.

HOW DID YOUR DOCTOR BECOME A "DERMATOLOGIST"?

The Philippines has our own set of requirements as to what makes a real dermatologist.
FIRST, after graduating from a medical school, he should pass the national Medical Board Examinations.
SECOND, he would apply for a Residency Training in Dermatology in any of the reputable accredited training institutions by the PDS.
THIRD, he has to complete a minimum of three years in general dermatology.

It is only after finishing this basic training that the doctor can now be called a "Dermatologist".

LASTLY, the Dermatologist would then take the PDS Board Exams in Dermatology.
The PDS sets the standards for training and specialty board examination for dermatology in the Philippines, recognized by PMA and PCP.

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SEEK CONSULTATION WITH A PDS DERMATOLOGIST

Your PDS dermatologist has been trained to spot possible problems, from the smallest flaw to the most complicated diseases, and could offer you the best and safest treatment for your condition.

So, you should see a dermatologist:
To diagnose and treat skin diseases
Acne, rashes, boils, warts, fungal infection, rosacea, psoriasis and skin cancer
To provide laser and surgical solutions
Birthmarks, blood vessels, sun damage, skin cancer, tattoos, wrinkles and scars
Moh's surgery, tumescent liposuction, non-surgical body sculpting
To enhance skin's beauty
Rejuvenation for skin discolorations, wrinkles, scars; spider veins and hair removal; treatment for balding
To guide you in choosing skin care products and procedures
Reveal to you the truth behind the claims of non-dermatologists
To prevent future problems
Non-commercial way of avoiding hair loss, sun protection and nail care.

AFFILIATION WITH A HOSPITAL

Not all skin problems brought to the Dermatologist are for "beauty's sake". Some skin problems can become really complicated, or may just be a part of a bigger problem, that the help of other doctor specialists are needed.
Your Dermatologist should be able to readily refer you to the specialist you need, and admit you to a hospital he/she is affiliated with.

So, remember, whether you need medical, surgical or cosmetic treatment for your skin, you can find a PDS dermatologist who meets your needs.

PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS ARE THE ONLY DOCTORS CONSIDERED AS "DERMATOLOGISTS" BY THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

For Inquiries, call PDS Secretariat: Tel. (632)723-0101 local 2015 • Website: http//www.pds.org.ph • Email: pds_org@pldtdsl.net

UST inaugurates Nick Joaquin reading corner

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS will inaugurate tomorrow the Nick Joaquin reading corner at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library building.

The reading corner will be named Esquinita de Quijano de Manila, referring to the writer's famous *nome de plume* as well as his romantic and erudite celebration in prose and poetry of the physical and metaphysical byways and alleys of Manila, the Ever Loyal and Noble City.

To lead the ceremonies at 4 p.m. is UST Rector Magnificus Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, OP. Assisting him is Fr. Angel Aparicio, OP, UST prefect of libraries.

Located at the Humanities section on the fifth floor of the six-story library, the reading corner consists of the National Artist's library bequeathed to the Pontifical University upon his death in 2004.

Joaquin received an Associate in Arts degree from UST. He achieved initial literary renown for "La Naval de Manila," which won First Prize in an essay contest sponsored by the Dominicans in the 1940's. Joaquin himself became a Dominican seminarian, but left the seminary to pursue a writing career.

In 1974, Joaquin was named National Artist for Literature. In 1996, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature, Journalism and Creative Communication.

Esquinita de Quijano de Manila is flanked by mahogany shelves. The corner has a dedicatory memorial and a resin glass design executed by UST Fine Arts professor Noel Rivera, son of Cenon, the late stained-glass artist.

For the inaugural, veteran stage actress Naty Crame-Rogers will perform excerpts from Joaquin's most important dramatic work, "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino."

To sing the Dominican Blessing and "Nasaan Ka, Irog?" are the UST Liturgikon. Meanwhile, soprano Thea Perez of the UST Conservatory of Music will sing "Cancion del Viejo Poeta" and "Himno a la Santisima Virgin del Pilar." To read Joaquin's poem "Verde" is young poet-performer Angelo Suarez.

The inaugural ceremonies of the UST Esquinita de Quijano de Manila are open to the public.

Call 7313034 or 4061611 loc. 8234.

Lumbera translates dramatic works of Joaquin, Lorca, Shakespeare

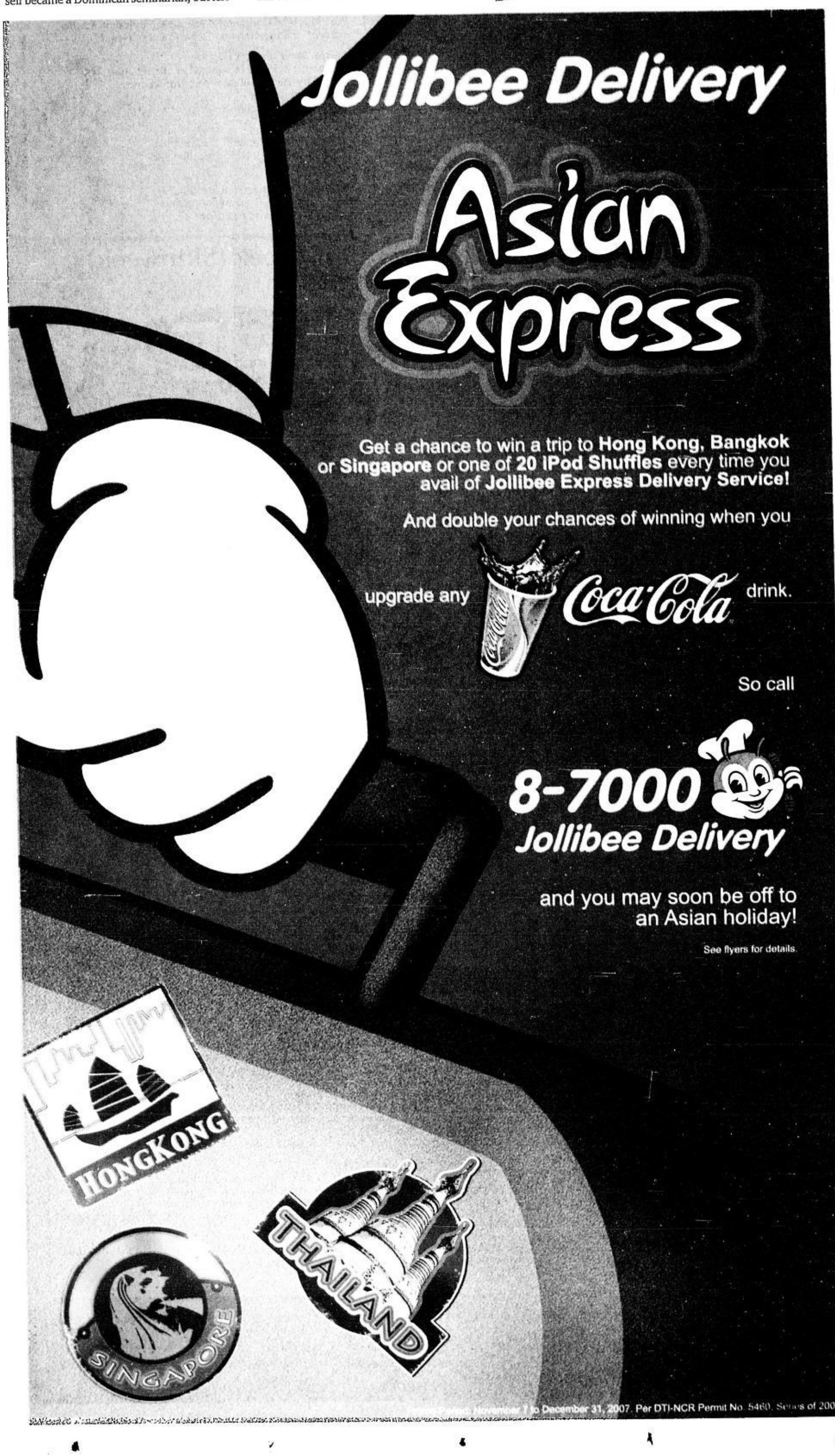
NATIONAL ARTIST FOR Literature Bienvenido Lumbera presents "Entablado Klasiko," his Filipino translations of key works of world theater, including Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino."

Published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press, the translation series will be launched Nov. 16, 5:30 p.m., at the Tanghalang Hermogenes Ylagan of the University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters.

Aside from "Portrait" (Filipino title: "Retrato ng Artista Bilang Filipino"), "Entablado Klasiko" has also translations of Federico Garcia Lorca's "Bodas de Sangre" ("Kasal sa Dugo"), William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" ("Julio Cesar"), and Maxim Gorky's "Enemies" ("Kaaway").

Lumbera says when he went to the UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in the 1950s to take up Litt.B Journalism, he became enamored "world literature," and his translations are just an extension of that interest.

A professor emeritus of UP, Lumbera received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature, Journalism, and Creative Communication in 1993. He was named National Artist in 2006.



Spectacular . . .

From page E1

played by Jaymz Denning and Cornelius Clarke, respectively.

Their running joke? "Denning says he's Scottish, Cornelius is Irish and they're trying to be Vulgarian trying to be English," Cundall quipped.

Cundall revealed that Denning and Clarke improvise on the spot whenever there is a slight delay during a show, which can range from a minor technical glitch backstage to dogs running into the audience.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" is a hugely expensive production in which a flying car is the ultimate crowd-pleaser, but pay close attention to the audience's reaction when the villains are on stage. One would notice that Denning and Clarke get the biggest laughs, many of the laughs coming from gags they've created together, independent of the script.

"What Jaymz and Cornelius are doing ... it's just extraordinary," said Cundall. "They've been magical since the first day of rehearsal."

KEVIN Kennedy as Caractacus Potts

From the dastardly Child Catcher to the immature Bombursts to the bungling Boris and Goran, it would seem like the most "evil" roles are also the most interesting.

Kevin Kennedy, who plays the eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts, had previously played the Child Catcher himself in the United Kingdom tour. "For these actors, the baddies are always fun," Cundall said.

World record

One of the largest musicals to visit Singapore, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" showcases the 1.5-ton car (which cost over £500,000 or S$2 million to build) that flies across the stage using state-of-the-art automation technology. The original from the London production, the car holds the Guinness World Record as the most expensive prop in the history of British theater.

With a full company of 106 (including eight dogs), sensational sets, delightful costumes and stunning special effects, this action-packed adventure is the story of the magical flying car Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and its inventor Caractacus Potts, who, with his children Jemima (Katie Reynolds) and Jeremy (Samuel Wright), alongside Truly Scrumptious (Marissa Dunlop) and Grandpa Potts (Tony Adams), outwit the Baron and Baroness and Child Catcher in their quest to capture the car.

"Chitty has at its heart two fundamental human desires—to protect one's children and to fly, told through a magical journey. It's a story of love and adventure, good and evil and a family in search of something missing—all brought together by a fantastic car," Cundall said.

Directed by Adrian Noble, who was also at the helm of the West End and Broadway productions, the musical features the songs "Truly Scrumptious," "Toot Sweets," "Hushabye Mountain" and the Oscar-nominated title song composed by the Sherman Brothers. The show is adapted from the original film by Jeremy Sams with design by Anthony Ward, choreography by Gillian Lynne and lighting by Mark Henderson.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" is a tale full of catchy songs, quirky gadgets, strange-looking characters and the titular car with a name that's a mouthful. That said, Cundall couldn't think of a shorter nickname. "It would be a travesty to call it anything else."

"ME Ol' Bamboo"

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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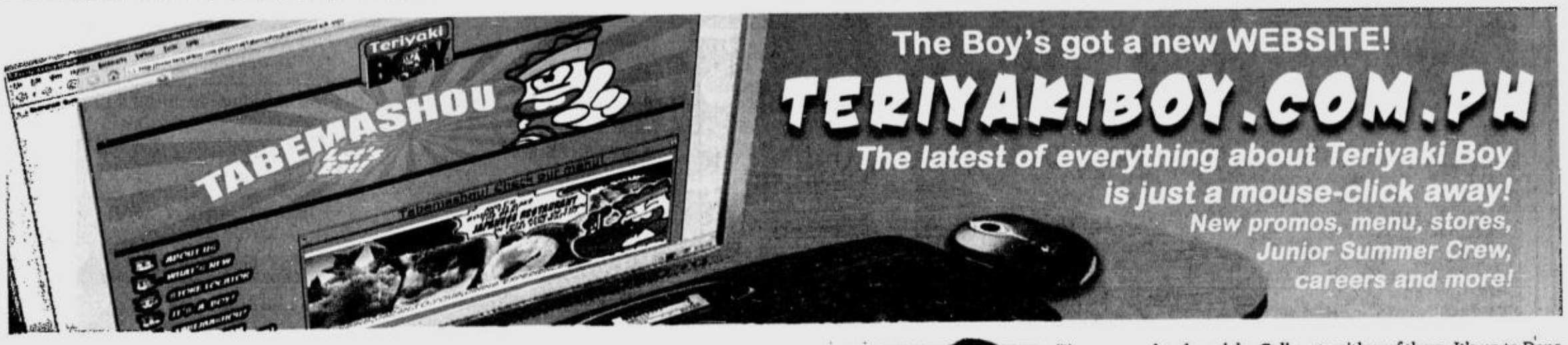

Dennis' love menace

I TEXTED **DENNIS TRILLO** AND **Cristine Reyes** for their sentiments involving the latter and **Carlene Aguilar**'s confrontational stance. But as of press time, they haven't replied. Cristine is said to be the secret GF of Dennis although both have denied it.

Dennis and Carlene claim they are no longer together even if they have a love child. But it seems that their actions don't jive with their words.

If there's really nothing going on between Dennis and Cristine, why would Carlene confront Cristine? And if Dennis and Carlene have really parted ways, then she should not give a hoot who Dennis is dating. Is he torn between two "C's?"

To "C" is to believe. What a love menace Dennis has gotten himself into! But knowing Dens, he's not one who would deliberately hurt anybody's feelings.

Perhaps it's just a bad case of postpartum blues for Carlene as Cristine gropes in the dark.

So in love

Maui Taylor is blissfully in love with **Kent**, her BF of one year and a half. He's a 30-year-old architect. They are now in Honolulu celebrating their anniversary.

MAUI Taylor and boyfriend Kent

I teased Maui if they have any marriage plans. "I'm actually afraid of the big M word," she said. "Kent's hoping it would be in two years' time but it hasn't crossed my mind yet."

For now, what matters is that Maui has found a love Taylor-made for her.

Fashion ambassador

Jolina Magdangal is raring to shoot her movie with **Gabby Concepcion**. Meanwhile, she's busy with her role as the eBay Style Ambassador. Jolens has been tapped to be the endorser of the on-line trading site during the launching of eBay Philippines.

Jolens' unique fashion sense has gone global!

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

'Got Milby?'

Sam Milby fanatics who want to have a T-shirt that has "Got Milby?" printed on it may e-mail **Len** at got_milby@yahoo.com. The shirt was worn by Sam's adoring audience at his recent Vancouver concert with Piolo Pascual. Visit http://i24.photobucket.com/album/c4/All_Jolie_Pics/gotmilby_edit.jpg.

Wonder if Tita **Lolit Solis** would be game enough to wear one.

Mom knows best

Speaking of Dennis, I asked his cool mom **Rita** how she feels about the latest events in her son's colorful life.

"Whoever Dennis ends up with, I hope she will be as good as he is. I told him to be wise in choosing a partner," she said. "I'm so proud to be a *lola*. **Calix** looks like Dennis except that he's *singkit*. We are planning to talk to Carlene's parents about the expenses and support for the baby."

What can she say about Carlene and Cristine? "I'm not close to either of them. It's up to Dens who he wants. I'll support him in all his decisions. I just advised him to legalize matters for the sake of my apo."

Carlenes and Cristines may

DENNIS'/ F4

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Feel temperatures rise as this sexy singer performs in the flesh.

RACHELLE ANNE WOLFE

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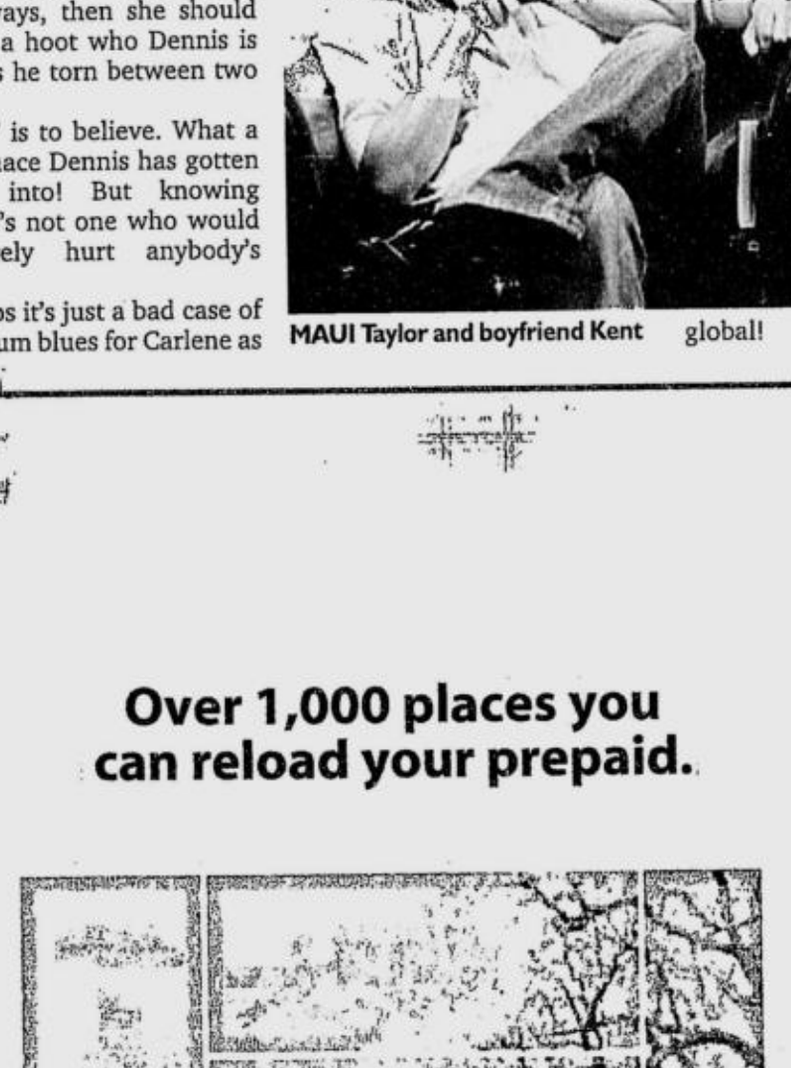

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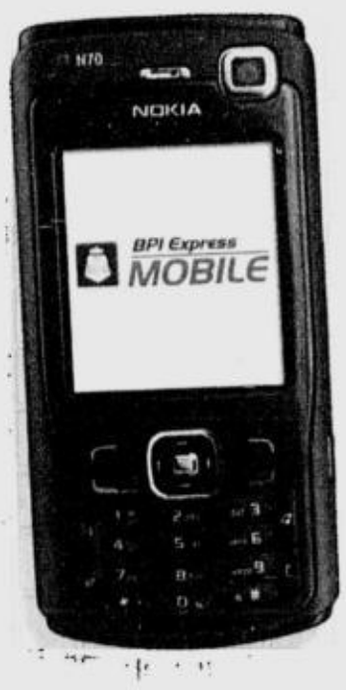

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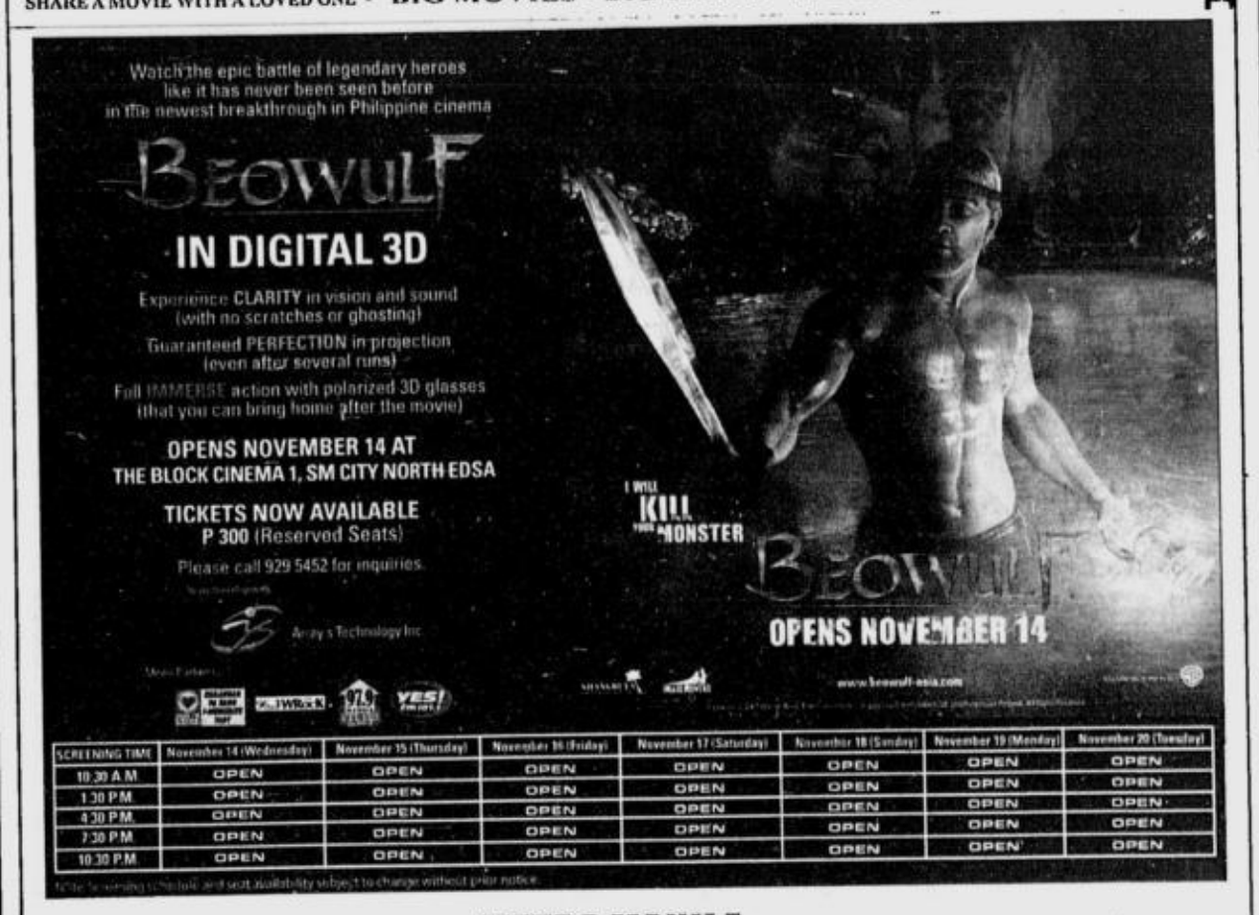

SCREENING TIME	November 14 (Wednesday)	November 15 (Thursday)	November 16 (Friday)	November 17 (Saturday)	November 18 (Sunday)	November 19 (Monday)	November 20 (Tuesday)
10:30 A.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
1:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
4:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
7:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
10:30 P.M.	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

*Note: Screening schedule and seat availability subject to change without prior notice.

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7 LIONS FOR LAMBS
8 WE OWN THE NIGHT
9 GHOST SON
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 STARDUST
12 ATAUL FOR RENT/ EL CANTANTE

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2 BALLS OF FURY
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 RESERVED
5 GHOST SON
6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
7 ATAUL FOR RENT
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 HIDE & SEEK
10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
11 STARDUST
12 EL CANTANTE

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2 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 STARDUST
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE AND SEEK
9 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10 HALLOWEEN
11 EL CANTANTE
12 ATAUL FOR RENT

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1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 HALLOWEEN/ APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 11TH HOUR
8 ATAUL FOR RENT
9 EL CANTANTE
10 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

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4 BUTTERFLY ON WHEEL

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3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ATAUL FOR RENT
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 HIDE AND SEEK

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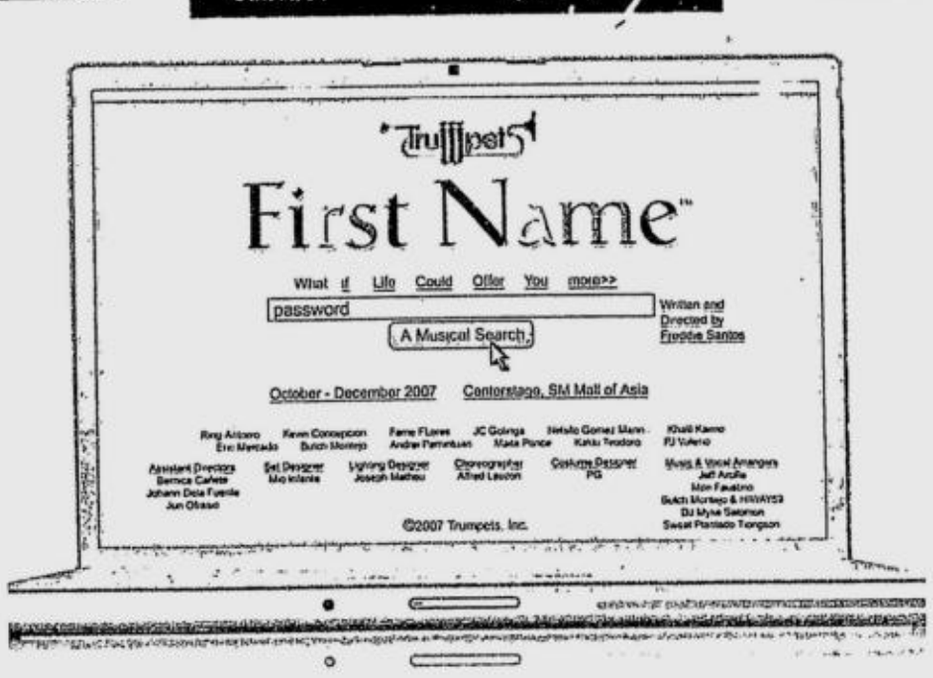

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3 HALLOWEEN
4 HIDE AND SEEK
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 UNREST
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 ATAUL FOR RENT
9 BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 STARDUST
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 GHOST SON
4 RENDITION

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 UNREST

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1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 HALLOWEEN
4 UNREST

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 UNREST
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 HIDE AND SEEK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 HIDE & SEEK
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 HIDE AND SEEK
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 HALLOWEEN
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 ATAUL FOR RENT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 STARDUST
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 UNREST
2 HALLOWEEN
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 EVENING
7 RESERVED
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 HIGHLANDER V
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 HALLOWEEN
6 KUNG FU FIGHTER
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 STARDUST

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIGHLANDER V

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GALLERIA

Ticket Price: P180 130, indie Sine: 130 632-9116

1 LIONS for LAMBS • THX
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

2 GAME PLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 EL CANTANTE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 BALLS of FURY
1:25 3:35 5:45

5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 GHOST SON
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 ATAUL for RENT
30 DAYS of NIGHT
1:10 3:20 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 indieSine: 2 MINUTES LATER
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

9 HIDE and SEEK
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 LUST CAUTION
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
12:35 3:00 5:35 8:00 10:00

2 ATAUL for RENT
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

4 GHOST SON
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

5 BALLS of FURY
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

7 HIDE and SEEK
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

Midtown

1 EL CANTANTE
12:35 3:00 5:25 8:00 10:00

2 GAME PLAN
12:35 3:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

3 LIONS for LAMBS
12:45 3:05 5:25 7:45 10:00

LUST CAUTION

Still
SHOWING
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imus

MTRCB Rating: R-18

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 882-8193 • 882-8199

1 BALLS of FURY
30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:10 2:00 4:00 6:30 9:00

2 GHOST SON
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

3 GAME PLAN
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

4 EL CANTANTE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

5 LUST CAUTION
11:20 2:30 5:40 9:00

6 HIDE and SEEK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

8 ATAUL for RENT
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 HIDE and SEEK

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378

1 EL CANTANTE
2 GAME PLAN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HIDE and SEEK

LIPA

Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P 90 (043) 312-5870

1 UNREST
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 RETRIBUTION

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 UNREST
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 LUST CAUTION
4 HIDE and SEEK

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 HIDE and SEEK
2 BALLS of FURY
3 LUST CAUTION
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 WEDDING DAZE
2 HIGHLANDER
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 MR. WOODCOCK

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 MR. WOODSTOCK
2 HALLOWEEN
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 HIGHLANDER

BACOLOD

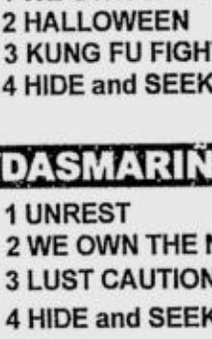
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 HIGHLANDER
3 indieSine: GULONG
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 RETRIBUTION
6 MR. WOODCOCK

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 HALLOWEEN
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 UNREST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 STARDUST
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3



A FILM BY SOCKIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apao, a smart, kindhearted boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of.

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD
November 07 to 13

MTRCB Rating: G

NOW ON DISC

'Ocean's Thirteen'

DIRECTOR STEVEN Soderbergh's third installment of the all-star series "Ocean's Thirteen" is now available on DVD under Warner Home Video.

Starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Al Pacino, Brad Pitt, Don Cheadle, Casey Affleck, Bernie Mac, Ellen Barkin and Scott Caan, the movie takes viewers into a whirlwind ride with the smoothest con men in

town.

This time, the gang is around to settle the score with ruthless casino magnate Willie Bank (Pacino).

'Rome 2'

HBO Entertainment has released the TV drama sequel "Rome 2."

The year is 44 B.C. Julius Caesar has been assassinated and civil war threatens to destroy players jockeying for position.

The movie stars Kevin McKidd, Lucius Vorenus, Ray Stevenson, Titus Pullo, Polly Walker and James Purefoy.

'Lucky You'

A professional poker player's (Eric Bana) astounding luck at the table fails to translate into his love life.

He attempts to win the World Series of Poker while earning the affections of a beautiful Vegas singer (Drew Barrymore).

Robert Duvall also stars in this movie now available on DVD under Warner Home Video.

MTRCB PG-13
"BRILLIANTLY WRITTEN." Larry King
"IMPASSIONED." "COMPELLING." PeleHammond, Maxim — Empire UK

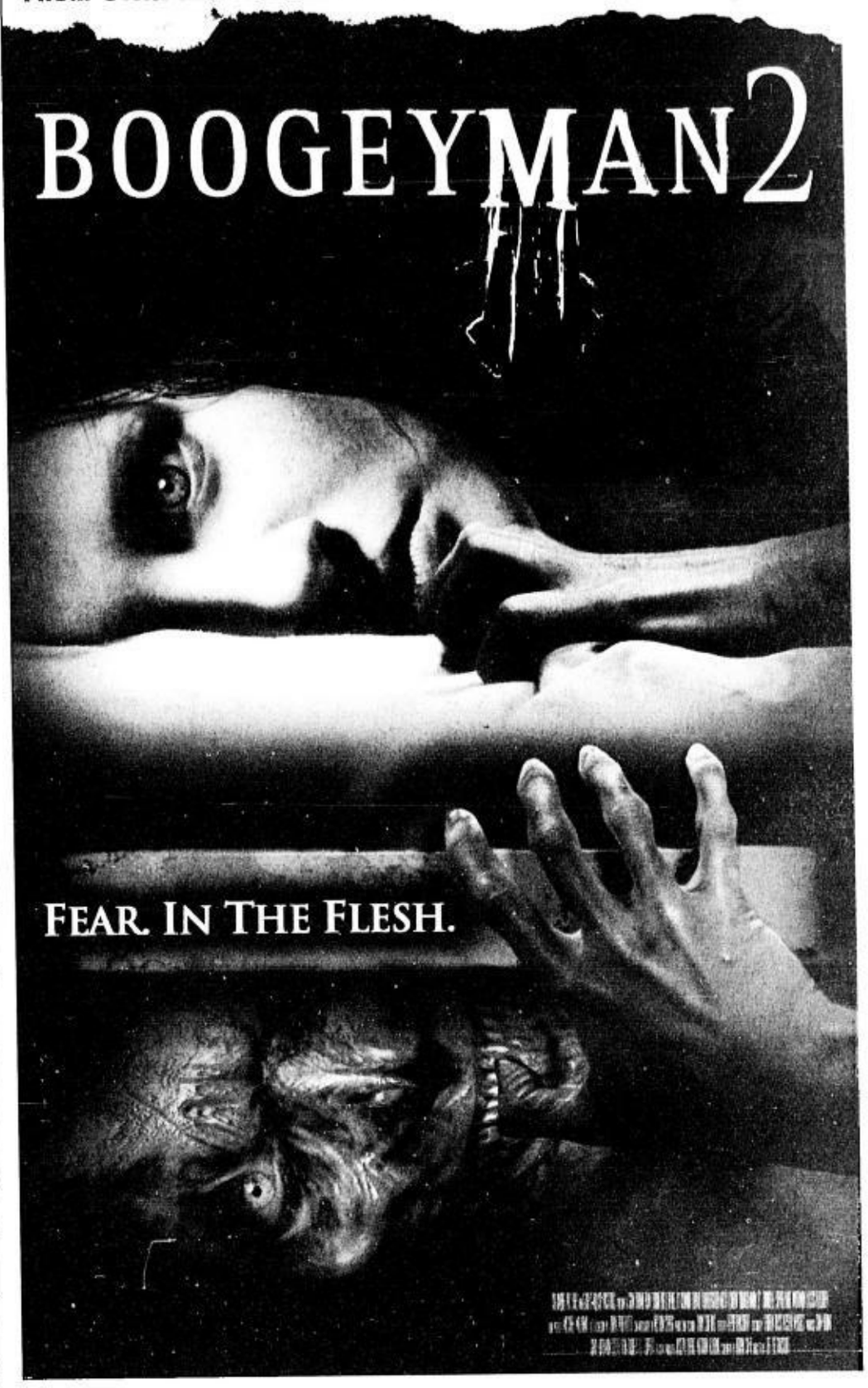
"ON-THE-MARK PERFORMANCES by Redford, Cruise and Streep." Larry King
ROBERT REDFORD MERYL STREEP TOM CRUISE
LIONS FOR LAMBS
NOW SHOWING

now showing at indieSine
2 minutes later
(USA)
Director: Robert Gaston

Film noir comes out of the celluloid closet in this sexy and smart thriller about murder and mistaken identity. When Kyle, a hunky and egotistical gay photographer, vanishes under mysterious circumstances, his equally hunky estranged gay twin brother, Michael, and smart-talking lesbian private detective, Abigail, search for clues to his disappearance. As they investigate his sordid world, a killer sets out to stop them.

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
MTRCB Rating: R18

OPENS NOVEMBER 14
AFTER "THE GRUDGE" & "THE MESSENGERS" COMES ANOTHER TERRIFYING MASTERPIECE FROM SAM RAIMI THE DIRECTOR OF "SPIDERMAN 1,2&3"
BOOGEYMAN 2



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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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GLORIETTA 1	1 LIONS FOR LAMBS	2 THE GAME PLAN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 ATAUL FOR RENT
GLORIETTA 4	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 EL CANTANTE	3 THX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUST CAUTION	5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	6 THE GAME PLAN	7 RENDITION
GREENBELT 1	1 LUST CAUTION		2 EL CANTANTE	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 LUST CAUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE GAME PLAN		2 LIONS FOR LAMBS	
	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT	4 LUST CAUTION	5 EL CANTANTE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 BALLS OF FURY	3 WEDDING DAZE	4 HALLOWEEN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GAME PLAN		2 LUST CAUTION	
	3 EL CANTANTE	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 LUST CAUTION	2 EL CANTANTE	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 BALLS OF FURY	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala

glorietta
Christmas Concert Series feat. KUH LEDESMA
November 11; 6pm; Activity Center

GREENBELT
Bossa Nova Christmas
November 16 & 23; Greenbelt 3 Park

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Pre-Christmas 10 to 10 Sale!
November 16 to 18 and 23 to 25

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Monterey and Virginia Foods Event
November 11; 3pm to 7pm; Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET!
Jobstreet Job Fair
November 14 to 15, Activity Center

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids
August - December 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com

Ayala MUSEUM
2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners
November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

TriNoma
Rhythm Academy: Kyla with Tiples De Sto. Domingo
November 17; 7pm; TriNoma Park

Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks
December 9; 6pm; Activity Center

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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or log on to www. sureseats.com for web reservation.
OPENS NOVEMBER 14 AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

Holiday Treats!
Free Christmas Gift bag for every P300 purchase Nov. 15 - Dec. 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-466, Series of 2007
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Holiday Sale Up to 70% OFF on selected items from participating stores Nov. 9 - Dec. 2, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-[illegible], Series of 2007
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Redeeming insights in seemingly chaotic lives

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE WRITING THIS REVIEW right after watching "El Cantante," so it gets to you before the movie ends its run. You should go out of your way to see it, because the **Marc Anthony** and **Jennifer Lopez** starrer is an exceptional film bio of the Puerto Rican singing star, **Hector Lavoe**.

The Latin-American singer's life provides rich material for a biographical movie, because it's full of high and low points—familial discord, drugs, marital strife, extramarital affairs, AIDS, the death of a son, etc.

But, to the film's great credit, its treatment of this lush material never descends to the level of soggy, strident melodrama. Everything is seen through the rigorous eye of an artist searching for redeeming insights in seemingly chaotic lives.

Adding to the movie's substance is the fact that Lavoe's songs say a lot about the lives of artists torn between giving everything they have and feel to their audience, and being blinded and compromised by self-absorption and the heady importunings of stardom.

Best of all, "El Cantante" showcases two exceptional performances turned in by Marc Anthony as Hector and Jennifer Lopez as his wife, Puchi.

This is the first time we've seen Marc Anthony act, and his generally quiet but complex performance truly impressed us. He vivified various aspects of Lavoe's complicated persona and charged his renditions of the singing star's songs with compelling expression and involvement.

Beyond standard

We were even more impressed with Lopez's portrayal of Puchi, because we've seen the actress in other performances that were merely proficient.

Here, she goes way beyond her standard portrayals, and overwhelms viewers with the richness and edginess of her characterization.

It's quite a *tour de force* performance—one that, we must confess, we didn't think Lopez had it in her to deliver.

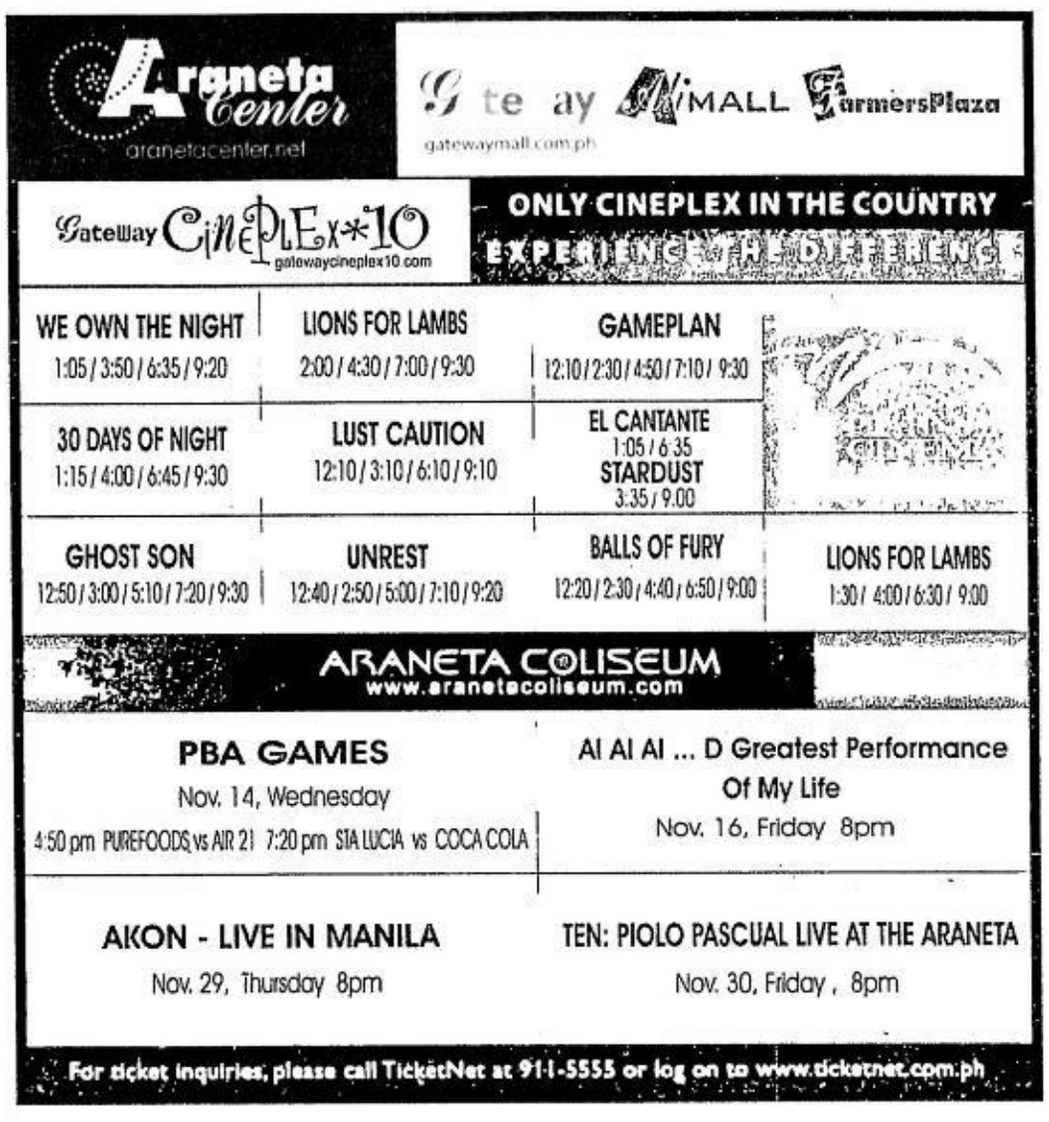
We hope that "El Cantante" finds a solid audience here, despite the fact that it's about a Latin-American singer who isn't well-known in this country, and whose songs are in Spanish. Not to worry on that score, though, since capsule English translations are provided.

If viewers here can get past those two inhibiting factors, they'll find that the film is eminently accessible to a Filipino audience in other respects: Its characters love life and music; they place great value on family ties; and they speak and act from the heart.

For music lovers

"El Cantante" may be best appreciated by music lovers and viewers with an artistic bent.

While its ending may be tragic, scenes showing Lavoe in the throes of creative and felt performance speak volumes about an artist's relationship with his audience and his muse, and provides the uplifting inspiration needed to balance the movie's downbeat denouement.



Dennis' From page F1

come and go but Rita is one woman who'll love Dennis for better, for worse ... and for keeps.

Promising films

Cinema One has created a venue for young and upcoming filmmakers to showcase their geniuses and get their much needed break in the industry via its annual independent film competition. Two of the most promising entries in Cinema One Originals are "Tambolista" and "Maling Akala."

Touching on poverty, guilt and redemption, "Tambolista" focuses on one boy's (played by **Jiro Manio**) simple wish to have his own set of drums. Together with his friends (**Sid Lucero** and **Coco Martin**), he comes of age and pursues his dream of becoming a drummer.

In real life, the former child star (who made us cry in "Magnifico") has really grown up. Jiro is now head over heels in love with an older woman.

"Maling Akala" is a romantic comedy about a young man's (**Victor Basa**) pressing homosexuality issues. This may heighten long-standing doubts about Victor's gender but he's too much of a pro to be bothered by that.

Don't miss these two heartwarming films on Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 at Trinoma and Glorietta 4.

In a world full of copies, here's to the (Cinema One) originals!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

KEN Zhu with "Batanes" co-star Sid Lucero

TAKE FIVE

Ken do spirit

Taiwanese superstar's promise: 'I shall return'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos courtesy of Ignite Media and Roger Robles

BASCO, BATANES—HIS PINOY fans will finally get to hear Ken Zhu's real speaking voice—in a drama movie, no less.

On the TV hit "Meteor Garden," his voice, like the rest of the boy band F4, was dubbed by Filipino talents. In Adolf Alix's and Dave Hukom's romance drama "Batanes," Ken is using his own voice.

It wasn't just his voice he lent to the film, but his total commitment, says Ignite Media producer Arleen Cuevas.

His management company was reportedly reluctant at first, but Ken insisted on accepting the project.

He also gave suggestions to improve the screenplay's Taiwan segments. "He asked that his character's name be changed from T-Sai to Kao, which was more modern," says Arleen.

In shooting the love scene, he was just as cooperative, says Adolf.

"Originally, we were limited to head shots, but he allowed us to shoot his bare back, up to his waist," Adolf recounts.

On his last day in Batanes, Ken told Adolf: "I bet you that I'll be back."

Less than a week later, he was shooting additional scenes with Iza in Tali Beach, Batangas.

"Ken assured me that he didn't want to rush and that he was willing to come back if needed," Adolf says.

More significantly, the extra day of shoot was still part of his contract—meaning there's no extra pay.

"He stayed until 6 a.m. to finish his scenes with Iza even though his flight to Taiwan that same day was 12 noon," associate director Arman Reyes says.

Adolf says that Ken promises to return for the movie's Manila premiere on Dec. 5.

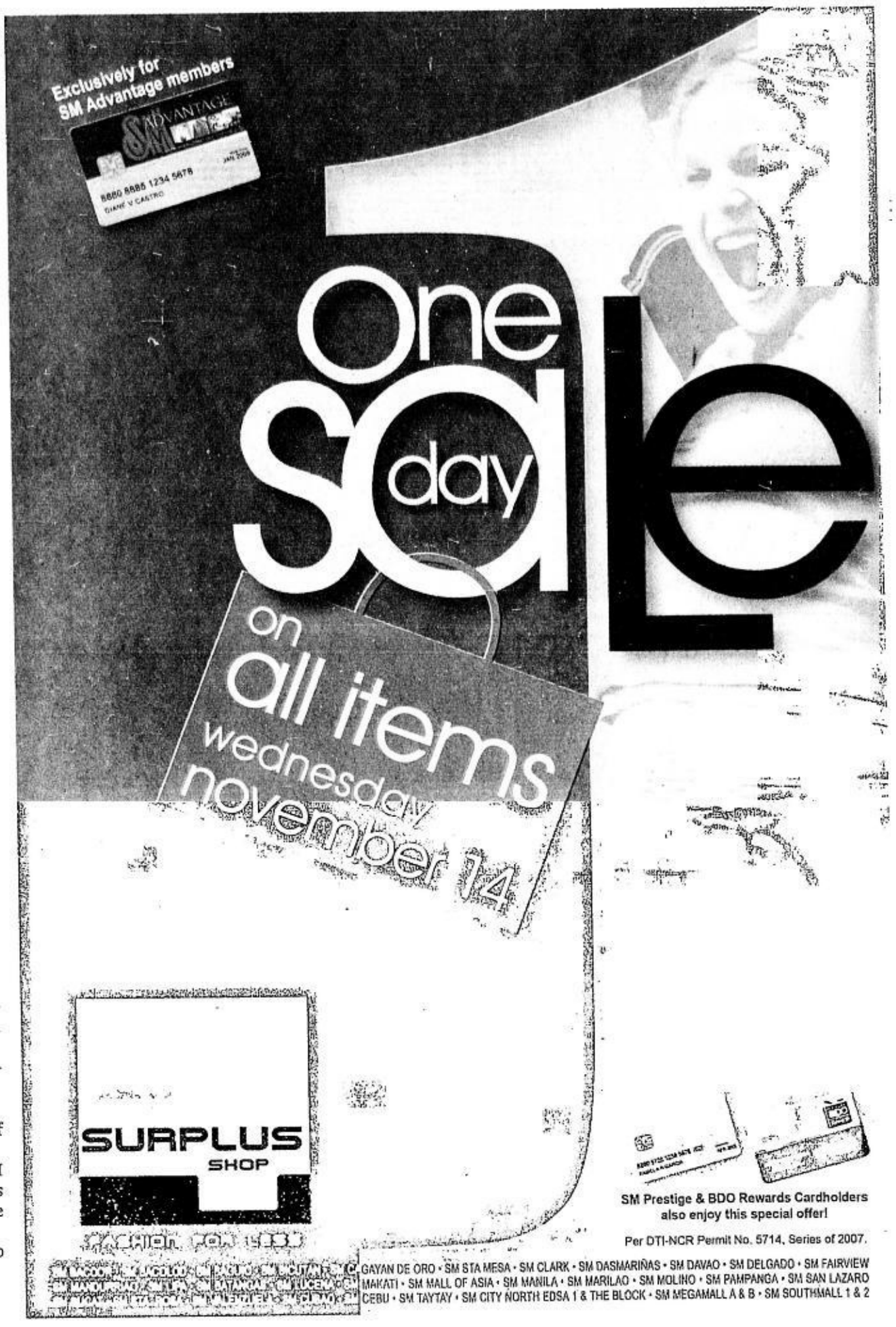
What attracted you to the script of "Batanes"?

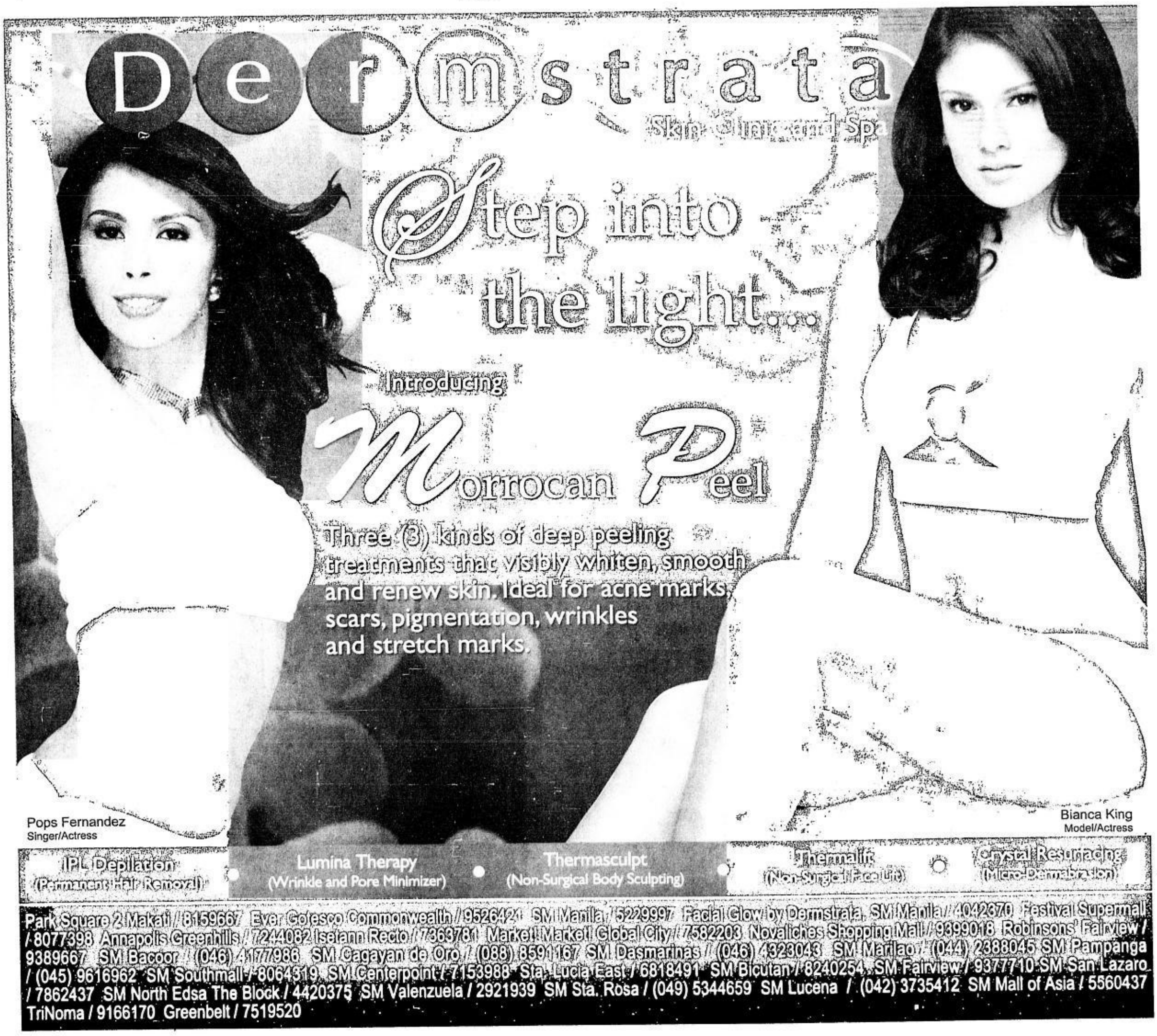
I fell in love with the story. That was why I decided to do it. I liked the idea that Batanes is actually closer to Taiwan and that there are (foreign) fishermen who drifted to this island.

The conflict is real; the story, powerful. I also like the love story.

What attracted you to the role?

KEN/ G4





A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY P.M. JUNIOR

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

LOVEKNOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

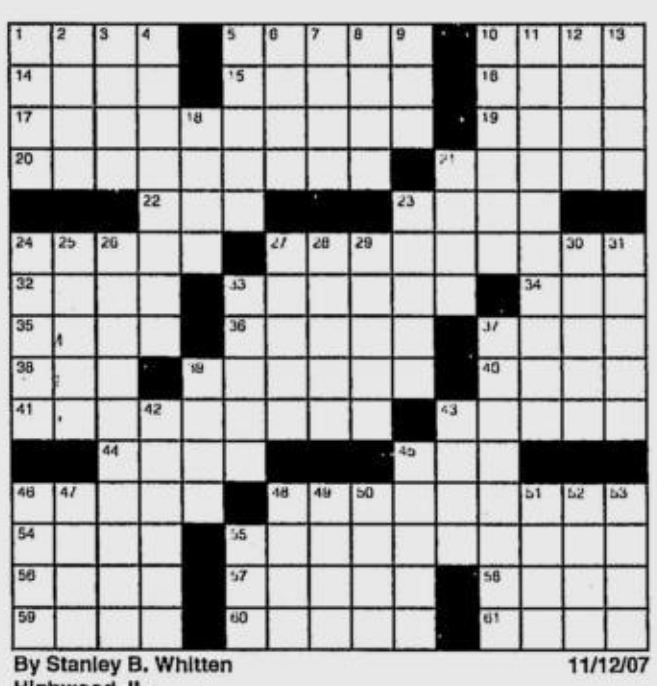
KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Tub time
5 Relative size
10 Complainer
14 __ vera
15 UFO passenger
16 Italian moola, once
17 Kingpins
19 Omelet ingredient
20 Agitated
21 Lake near Reno
22 Broadcast
23 Section
24 Eyelashes
27 Wedding ceremonies
32 Employs
33 Most clever
34 At this time
35 Whitewater craft
36 "Bellefleur" author
37 Monster of myth
38 Chow down
39 Admission conduit
40 Pelvic pieces
41 Beer glasses
43 Sanctified
44 Pretentiously creative
45 Stitch
46 Embryo sacs
48 Cause to be doubted
54 Board joint
55 Ultimate figure
56 Skater's leap
57 City on the Allegheny
58 Delicate fabric
59 Go by bus
60 "Games People Play" author
61 Close violently

DOWN
1 Takes one's turn at the plate
2 Scads
3 Pith helmet
4 Certain Biblical scholar
5 More rational
6 Enclothed
7 Indigenous people of Japan
8 Hurdle
9 Finnish twins?
10 Gets brighter
11 90-degree turn
12 Jason's ship
13 Military post
18 "Stride la vampa," e.g.
21 Tightly stretched
23 Old West pursuers
24 Heals
25 Scientist Newton
26 Like a southpaw
27 Make happy
28 Indian instrument
29 Quick looks
30 Nocturnal primate
31 Perspire
33 Boxer Liston
37 Black gold producers
39 Small amount
42 Baltimore bird
43 Road shoulder
45 Biscuit from the griddle
46 Hebrew month
47 Skirt style
48 Pineapple name
49 Roman road
50 Musial or Kenton
51 Gauge face
52 Native Peruvian
53 Swarm
55 Angler's float



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
11/12/07

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	T	H	E	R	L	O	D	E	■	D	C	C	I
U	N	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	R	■	E	L	O	N
S	T	A	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	■	L	E	F	T
H	O	R	N	E	T	■	■	■	S	T	R	A	F	E
■	■	■	I	S	A	A	C	S	■	A	I	R	E	R
U	C	L	A	■	■	P	O	T	■	R	O	W	E	L
N	R	A	■	O	V	E	R	E	A	T	■	A	C	U
D	E	S	■	B	I	R	E	T	T	A	■	T	A	D
E	D	T	■	S	M	I	T	T	E	N	■	E	K	E
R	I	C	H	E	■	E	T	E	■	■	I	R	E	S
A	T	H	O	S	■	S	A	D	D	A	M	■	■	■
C	L	A	U	S	E	■	■	■	E	S	P	A	N	A
T	I	N	S	■	I	N	D	E	N	T	U	R	E	D
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11/12/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're attractive, seductive and magnetically, deeply alluring. (Pretty tall order.) Those of you who are highly talented captivate others. Your life has dramatic, often passionate details. You are very devoted to whatever cause you choose to embrace. The year ahead beautifully favors partnerships and romance. Be open to meeting new people and making new friends.

Birthdate of: Neil Young, singer; Princess Grace Kelly, actress; David Schwimmer, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a wonderful way to start the week. You're eager to learn more about life through education or travel. You want adventure. You're hungry for more of life!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Quite possibly, you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others today. Play it safe. Smile a lot. Keep your pockets open. Above all, be polite.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a marvelous day to enjoy the company of partners and close friends. When you talk to others, you'll feel excited, optimistic and enthused about life. It's all fun.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Work-related travel is likely today. Matters related to publishing, the media and foreign countries can go well. Co-workers are pleasantly supportive. (Great!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): What a wonderful day to play! Enjoy flirtations, sports, the arts, the theater, playful activities with children and fun times. It's easy to have fun today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day for real estate deals. Family conversations will be upbeat and informative. Group discussions at home can promote learning.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Enthusiasm is always contagious. Today, your positive frame of mind makes others happy. People want to be in your presence!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. In particular, business that is related to travel, foreign countries, publishing, the media, higher education, medicine and the law is favored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The Moon is lined up with your ruler, lucky Jupiter, today. This makes everybody feel hopeful and enthusiastic about life. Naturally, this applies double to you! Enjoy your day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Time spent alone, especially in beautiful surroundings, might be beneficial to you because you will learn something new or make contact with people from another culture or country. Something will broaden your experience of the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's a popular day. Everyone wants to see your face. Get out and enjoy the company of others. Talk to others about your future goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Relations with bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs are excellent today. Someone can teach you something important. Travel opportunities for chances to expand your world through publishing and teaching might exist for you now.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

	7			2		1	5	
5			1		8			6
1		2		3		8		
	4		8		1		6	
6		5				7		9
	2		7		5		3	
		8		1		5		2
3			2		4			1
	1	9		5			8	

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Difficulty Level ★ 11/12

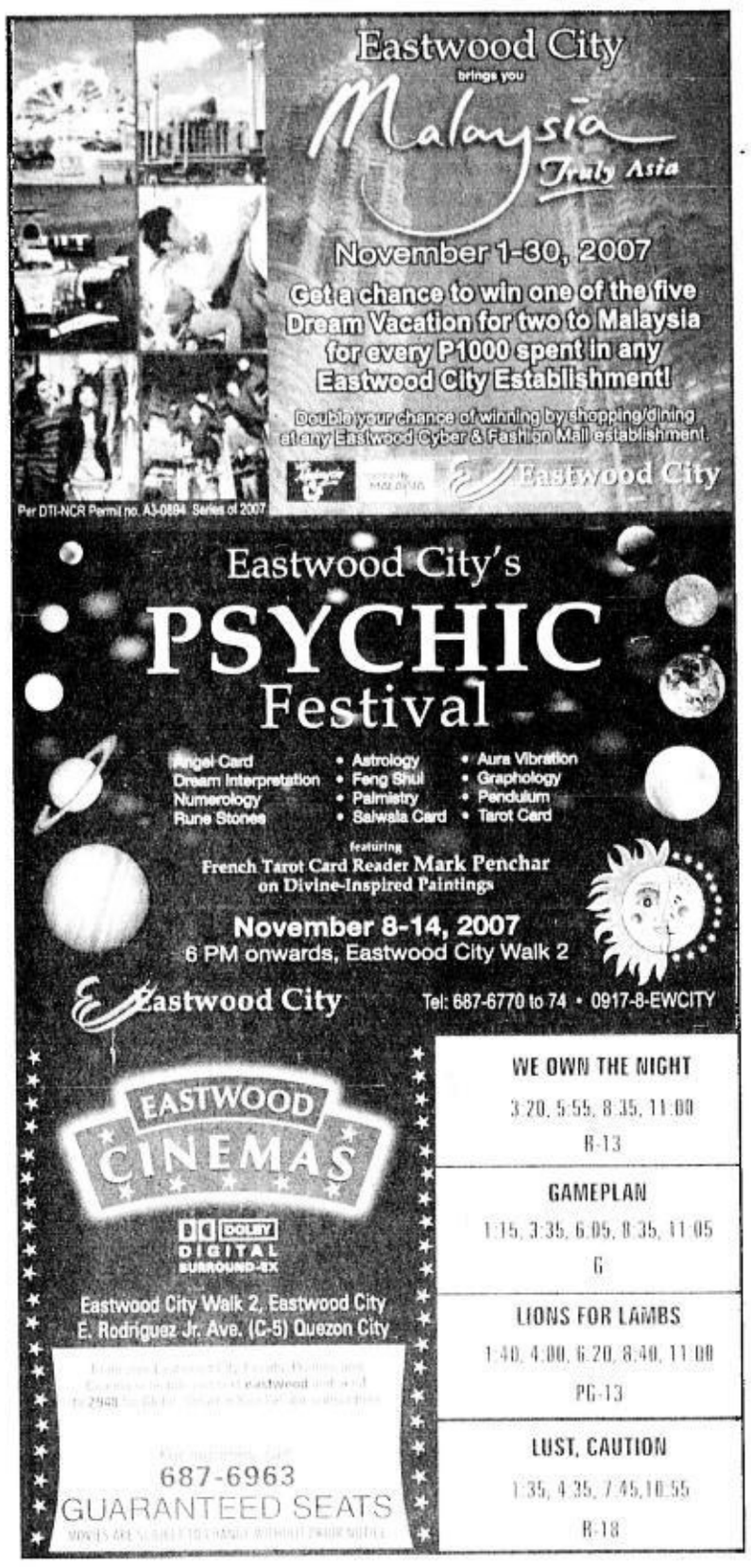
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	5	4	9	3	7	2	1
4	7	1	2	8	5	6	9	3
2	3	9	6	7	1	4	8	5
9	8	7	3	4	2	5	1	6
5	2	6	8	1	7	9	3	4
1	4	3	5	6	9	8	7	2
7	5	8	1	3	4	2	6	9
6	1	2	9	5	8	3	4	7
3	9	4	7	2	6	1	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/11



SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
MTRCB PG-13 12:40 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
MTRCB R-13 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

2 THE GAME PLAN
MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 BALLS OF FURY
MTRCB GP 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE — LUST CAUTION (R-18) 12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

EL CANTANTE R13 12:40,3:10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 5:40,7:55,10:10	GAME PLAN G 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30
WE OWN THE NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	LUST CAUTION R18 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	BALLS OF FURY G 1:45,3:45

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 LUST CAUTION 10:35, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35 R-18
CINEMA 2 EL CANTANTE / 30 DAYS OF NIGHTS 11:40, 2:25 //5:05, 7:50, 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 WE OWN THE NIGHTS 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 4 LIONS FOR LAMBS 10:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 5 GAME PLAN 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

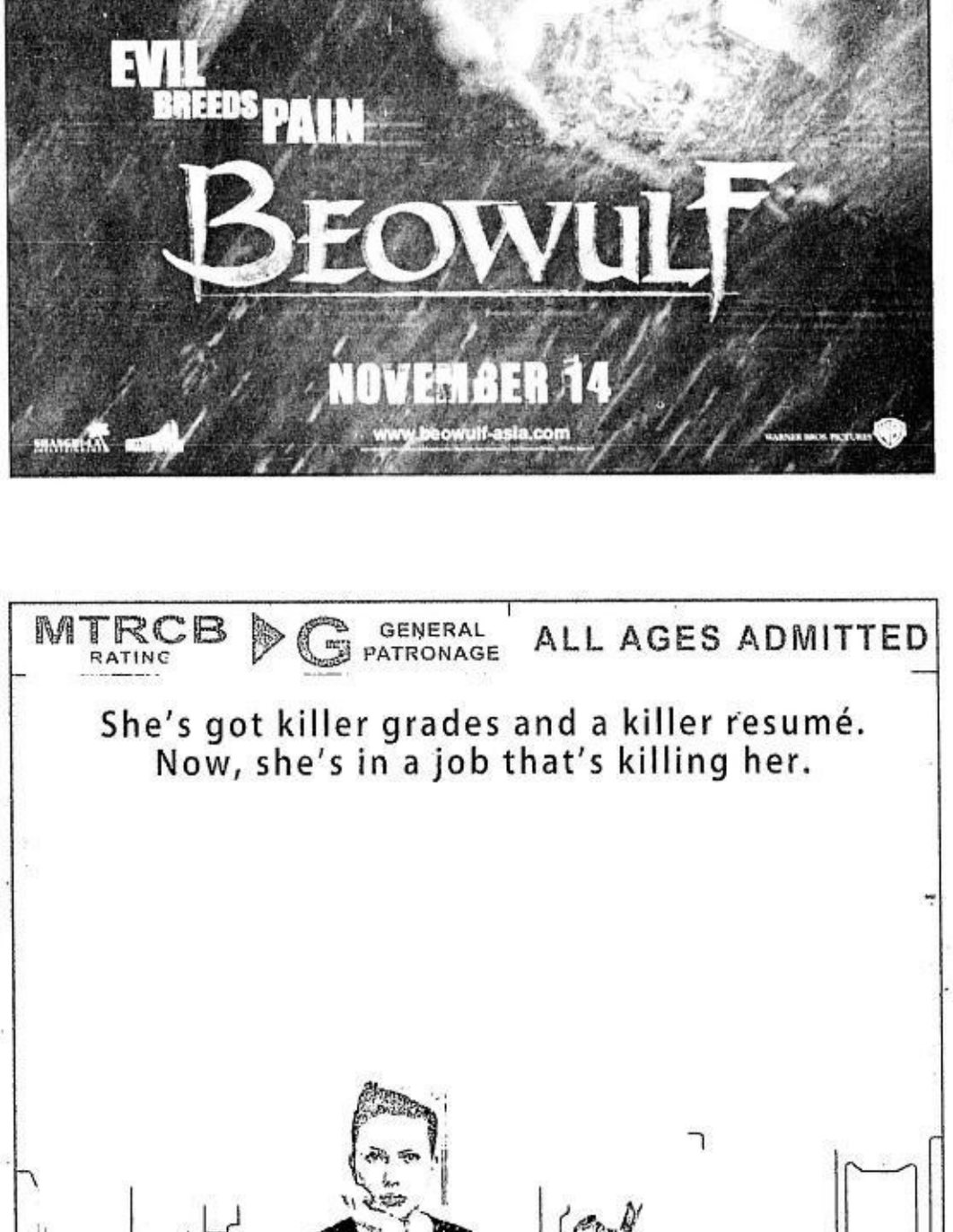
MUSIC MUSEUM

November 9&10, 16&17, 23&24	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
November 15, 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
November 20, 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22, 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·O·N·O
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Nov. 7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	Cenudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633 2227 / 633 4735 loc 111

1 (DOLBY) LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
3 (DOLBY) WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 (DOLBY) BALLS OF FURY

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) LUST CAUTION

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 EL CANTANTE
4 BALLS OF FURY

stARmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 ATAUL FOR RENT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LUST CAUTION
5

metropolis star cinema
www.citylifecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8804285, 5433934

1 ATAUL FOR RENT
2 GHOST SON
3 LUST CAUTION
4 THE GAME PLAN

THEATRES
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
3 HIDE & SEEK

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) EL CANTANTE
2 (DOLBY) WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 (DOLBY) LUST CAUTION
4 (DOLBY DTS) LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BALLS OF FURY
6 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE GAME PLAN
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 (DOLBY) GHOST SON
9 (DOLBY) ATAUL FOR RENT
10 (DOLBY) HIDE & SEEK

Blue Wave CINEMA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341527

1 (DOLBY) LUST CAUTION
2 (DOLBY) 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 THE GAME PLAN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT
3 RESERVED
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 GHOST SON

Center Mall Cinema
Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Bagulo City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 SHOOT EM UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY) HIDE & SEEK
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 (DTS DIGITAL) MR. WOODCOCK
4 HIGHLANDER

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 HIDE & SEEK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
3 (DOLBY) LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LUST CAUTION

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 (DTS) UNREST
3 (DOLBY) STURDUST
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 (DTS) THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 RENDITION
3 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
4 (DTS) THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 STARDUST
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 (DOLBY) HIDE & SEEK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 HIDE & SEEK

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 PLEASE CALL
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) GHOST SON
2 BUKAS MY UMAGA
3 MAKAMUNDO
4 (DTS) ATAUL FOR RENT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) HIDE & SEEK
2 KALAPATI
3 (DTS) STURDUST
4 MAKAMUNDO
5 UNREST

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

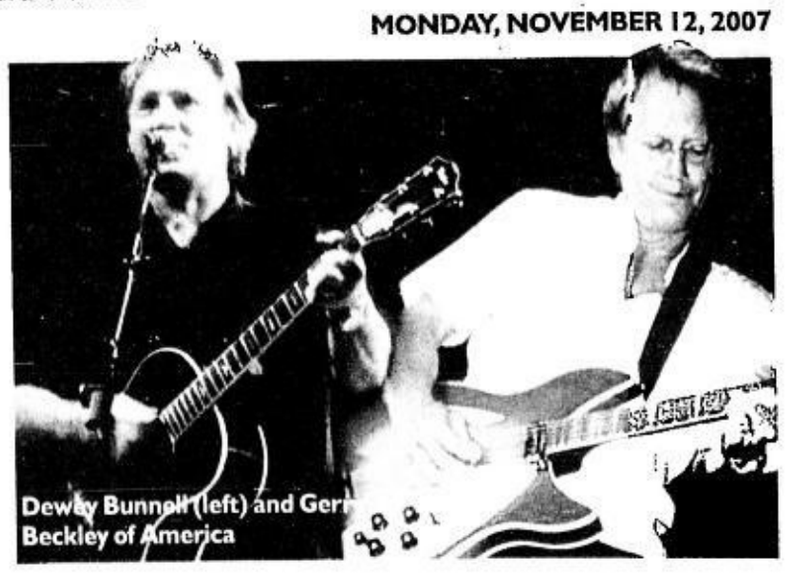
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 UNREST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 HIDE & SEEK

Berma Cinema
(Batlaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

America returns for five-city RP tour


Dewey Bunnell (left) and Gerry Beckley of America

THE CLASSIC FOLK-ROCK group America returns to the Philippines after 26 years with a series of performances starting on Nov. 30 at Clark Expo, Pampanga; Dec. 1, Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City; Dec. 2, La Salle Coliseum, Bacolod City; Dec. 4, Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City; and Dec. 5, Limketkai Atrium, Cagayan de Oro City.

Originally a trio of childhood friends who grew up in England because their American fathers were Air Force personnel stationed in London, America became famous with worldwide hits like "A Horse With No Name," "I Need You," "Sandman," "Venture Highway," "Sister Golden Hair" and many others.

It reportedly still maintains a large following, performing more than 100 shows a year with surviving members Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell. "Here and Now," its latest studio album in over 20 years, has just been released. Call 9115555 for tickets to the Philippine concerts.

Muziklaban grand finals

The 2007 Red Horse Beer Muziklaban grand finals is on Nov. 17 at the Marikina Sports Complex.

The winning band gets P900,000 cash. Other prizes at stake are the Breakthrough Performance Award; Dickies' Lupit sa Moshpit (Rockers' Choice) Award; and JB Music's Best Pinoy Influence Award.

Some 28 guest bands led by Parokya ni Edgar, Kamikazee and Sugarfree, aside from the competing finalists, are set to perform. Tickets at P100 available at the gate which opens at 12 noon.

Kerygma conference

Dulce, Nolyn Cabahug, Nyoy Volante, Adrian Panganiban and Reuben Laurente are among the performers at the Kerygma Conference on Nov. 23, 24 and 25 at the Ultra, Pasig City.

The three-day conference, which will also feature guest speakers Christopher de Leon, Julius and Christine Babao, Bernadette Sembrano and other media personalities, gathers readers and supporters of Kerygma, the inspirational magazine published by young preacher Bo Sanchez.

Call 7259999 or log on to www.kerygmaconference.com.

Tomorrow

Voice of the '70s at Cuba Libre, Starmall Las Piñas. Call 874-0293.

Nov. 14

Rumors at Cuba Libre, Starmall, Las Piñas.

Cambio at Padi's Point Araneta Center, Quezon City.

Nov. 15

Ana Fegi and Toti Fuentes at Merk's Bar Bistro. Call 7574720 or 21.

En Masse at Cuba Libre, Starmall Edsa, Mandaluyong. Call 7183790.

Nov. 16

Ai Ai de las Alas at the Araneta Coliseum.

Regine Velasquez, 8:30 p.m. at Aliw Theater, Star City Complex, Manila.

Brown Republic at Cuba Libre, Starmall Edsa.

Shamrock at Elbow Room, Metrowalk, Pasig.

Nov. 17

Freddie Aguilar at LA Cafe, Ermita.

Jay-R at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati.

Nov. 20

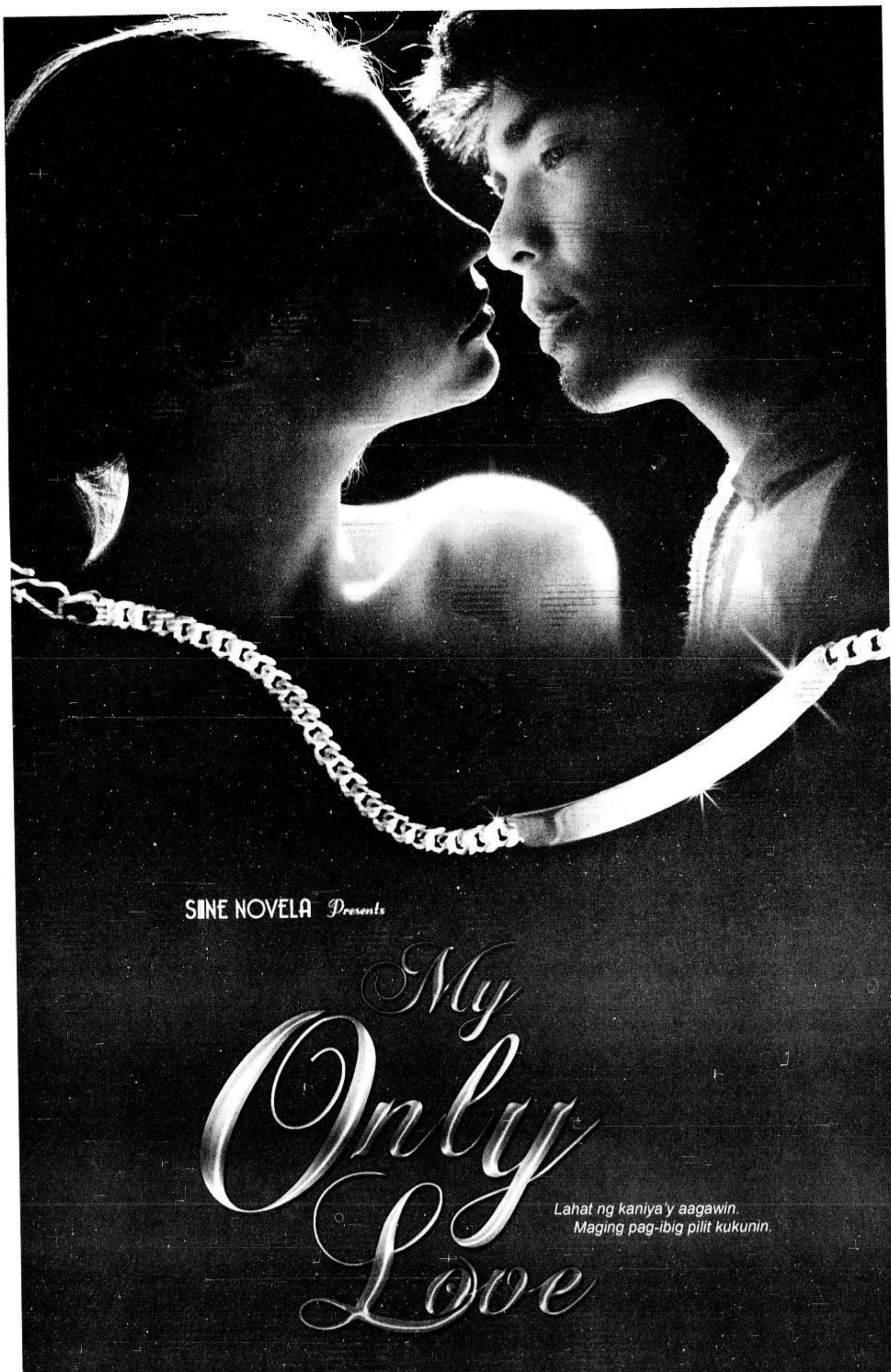
Ana Fegi and Toti Fuentes at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati.

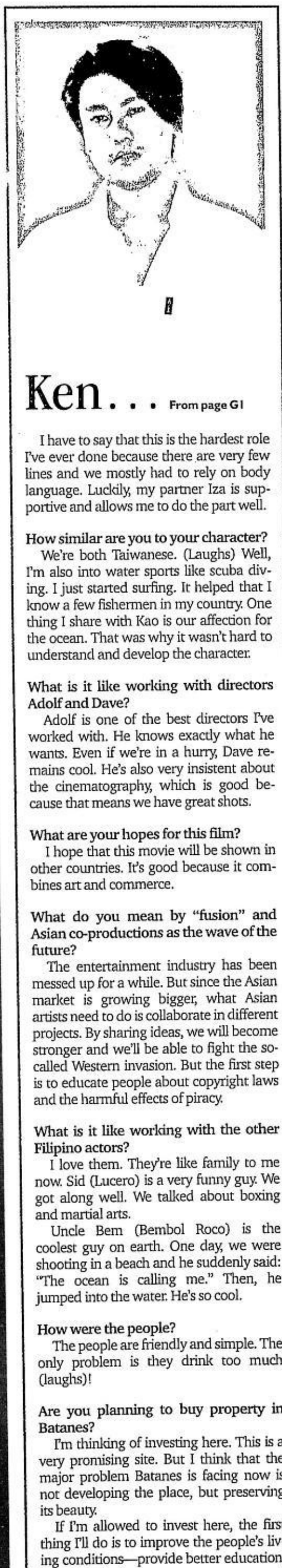
Nov. 23

Regine Velasquez, 8:30 p.m. at Aliw Theater, Star City Complex, Manila.

Julianne and Miguel Escueta, 8 p.m. at Figaro Hanston Bldg. F Ortigas st. (formerly Emerald Ave.), Pasig.

SHOW TIME





Ken . . . From page G1

I have to say that this is the hardest role I've ever done because there are very few lines and we mostly had to rely on body language. Luckily, my partner Iza is supportive and allows me to do the part well.

How similar are you to your character?

We're both Taiwanese. (Laughs) Well, I'm also into water sports like scuba diving. I just started surfing. It helped that I know a few fishermen in my country. One thing I share with Kao is our affection for the ocean. That was why it wasn't hard to understand and develop the character.

What is it like working with directors Adolf and Dave?

Adolf is one of the best directors I've worked with. He knows exactly what he wants. Even if we're in a hurry, Dave remains cool. He's also very insistent about the cinematography, which is good because that means we have great shots.

What are your hopes for this film?

I hope that this movie will be shown in other countries. It's good because it combines art and commerce.

What do you mean by "fusion" and Asian co-productions as the wave of the future?

The entertainment industry has been messed up for a while. But since the Asian market is growing bigger, what Asian artists need to do is collaborate in different projects. By sharing ideas, we will become stronger and we'll be able to fight the so-called Western invasion. But the first step is to educate people about copyright laws and the harmful effects of piracy.

What is it like working with the other Filipino actors?

I love them. They're like family to me now. Sid (Lucero) is a very funny guy. We got along well. We talked about boxing and martial arts.

Uncle Bem (Bembol Roco) is the coolest guy on earth. One day, we were shooting in a beach and he suddenly said: "The ocean is calling me." Then, he jumped into the water. He's so cool.

How were the people?

The people are friendly and simple. The only problem is they drink too much (laughs)!

Are you planning to buy property in Batanes?

I'm thinking of investing here. This is a very promising site. But I think that the major problem Batanes is facing now is not developing the place, but preserving its beauty.

If I'm allowed to invest here, the first thing I'll do is to improve the people's living conditions—provide better education, better medical care.

What will you tell your friends in Taiwan about Batanes?

I will tell them how beautiful this place is. But I will not try to convince them to come here. (Laughs) I would like to keep it private for a while. Exclusive to myself.

A Message from the NPC President

SOLIDARITY: the Key to NPC strength

One @ 71
STRENGTH IN SOLIDARITY

By Cyril C. Del Callar

Last November 3, your National Power Corporation officially turned 71 years old. And as we marked another historic year in our corporate life, we are proud to say that NPC has become stronger than ever.

To what do we owe this renewed corporate strength? There are many reasons, but the one factor that immediately comes to mind is this: our solidarity. After more than seven decades, each and everyone of our 4,000-strong workforce remains united, and hence, stronger in their solidarity. Like a family that becomes more closely-knit in the face of the challenges it encounters, our employees have become more united after weathering storms and sharing triumphs over the past 71 years.

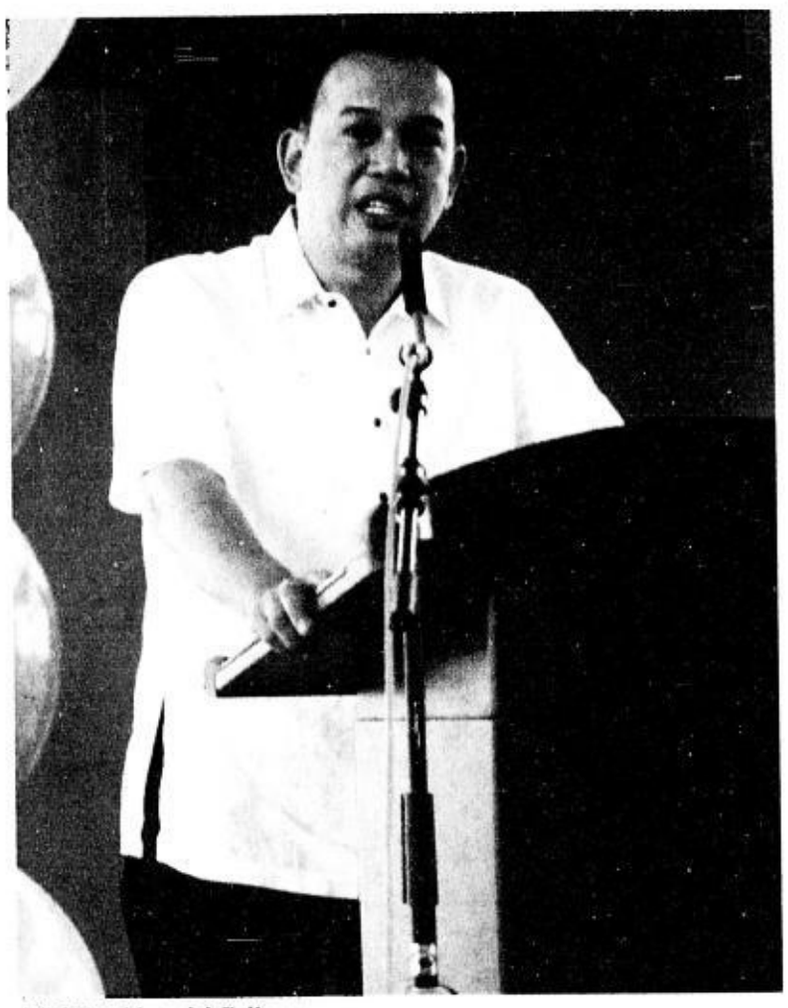
Speaking of shared triumphs, the year 2007 was marked by a number of corporate accomplishments: some of them big, others small, all of them designed for one purpose – to keep our stakeholders, in particular the consuming public, satisfied. The fact that these little victories also serve to foster unity and cooperation among our employees is just an added and much-welcome bonus.

In the area of electricity tariff, we continued to work towards reducing our power rates, as we sought to pass on to our customers the benefits of our improved fiscal position. From January to October this year alone, we had brought down our effective rates in Luzon by a total of P1.59 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). In the Visayas, we were able to cut down our rates by P0.57 per kWh and in Mindanao, by P0.34 per kWh.

Relatedly, in September this year, we signed a Memorandum of Agreement with our biggest customer, the Manila Electric Company, to reduce power rates in 10 industrial estates and three special economic zones by more than P1 per kWh. Specifically, NPC and Meralco agreed to lower their generation rate for industries from P4.69 per kWh to a flat rate P3.52 per kWh to enhance their competitiveness and reduce their operating costs.

Our power plants continued to reap honors and to bring pride to NPC. For instance, the Leyte Geothermal Power Plant won the Kabalikat Award (Industry Category) of the TESDA (Technical Education & Skills Development Authority), both in the provincial and regional level. The award was given to LGPP in recognition of its outstanding support and contribution to the development of middle-level workers in country. Meanwhile, our Mak-Ban Geothermal Power Plant was given the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2000 certification for Quality Management, making it the latest addition to our growing list of ISO-certified facilities.

Similarly, NPC was cited by Bureau of Internal Revenue last February as the top taxpayer in Quezon City, with internal revenue



NPC President del Callar

tax payments of P6 billion in 2006. NPC's e-ODPS (Enhanced One-Day Power Sales) program meanwhile bagged the Bronze Award (Applications Category) in the 2007 M2M Value Chain Awards. The award was given by the Illinois-based M2M Magazine, which hailed the e-ODPS as "an impressive exercise in customer service".

On the environment front, NPC was able to significantly cut the gas emissions from its power generation plants by minimizing the use of its oil-based power plants and by sustaining the development of the watersheds under its jurisdiction. Specifically, NPC was able to bring down the emission levels for carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitric dioxide and carbon monoxide by close to forty percent since 2003.

We worked closely with the other members of the Energy Family to ensure that the senatorial and local elections last May 17 were brownout-free. NPC was subsequently commended by then Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla for a job well done.

Finally, with the Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation at the helm, we made a major breakthrough in our privatization program with the sale of two big-ticket power plants earlier this year: the 600-MW Calaca Coal-Fired Power Plant in Batangas and the 600-MW Masinloc Coal-Fired Power Plant in Zambales. In what is widely considered as the acid test for the government's privatization blueprint, Masinloc was sold for US$930 million to the Masinloc Power Partners Corporation, Ltd., while Calaca fetched US$786 million and is set to be awarded shortly to winning bidder Holdco Inc.

Remembering a banner year

Our humble achievements so far this year mirror the accomplishments we realized in 2006, which will be remembered as a banner year for NPC.

In terms of financial performance, we closed the year 2006 with a net income of P90 billion, which stands on record as our highest net-income ever in our 72-year history. This is P4 billion more than our 2005 net income of P86 billion, and a complete reversal from our original projection of a net loss of P18.46 billion.

In 2006, we also generated savings of more than P13 billion, as a result of a stringent cost-cutting program that included the continued renegotiation of our existing contracts with our Independent Power Producers (IPPs), the minimal utilization of oil-based power plants and the increased use of the less expensive geothermal and hydroelectric power plants.

On the operations front, our energy sales remained healthy at 35,534 GWh in 2006, up from the 2005 figure of 35,291 GWh. We were able to achieve the higher energy sales despite the onslaught of three super typhoons (Milenyo, Senyang and Reming) which hit the country last year.

In terms of our generation mix, we were able to bring down the share of oil to a mere 7.96 percent, down from 9.41 percent in 2005. As in the previous years, we continued to maximize the use of renewable and indigenous energy sources to run our power plants: coal, which continued to account for the biggest share of our generation mix at 29.12 percent; geothermal, which had a share of 25.78 percent; hydro at 22.65 percent, and natural gas at 14.49 percent.

Pls. turn to page 6

NPC turns 71

Various activities highlighted the one-week celebration with the theme "One at 71."

The National Power Corporation celebrated its 71st Founding Anniversary on November 5-9 with a line-up of activities that highlighted the sense of solidarity among its 4,000-strong workforce.

With the theme "One at 71," the anniversary activities all carried the word "one" to stress the importance of unity and "oneness" among the NPC employes, as the Corporation continued to face the challenges of privatization.

Day 1 of the celebration (November 5) was highlighted by "ONE Day in Court," an exhibition basketball match featuring the members of the Management Committee.

Also held that day were a photo contest entitled "ONE Click" and a banner-making tilt. The NPC Ladies Foundation also formally opened their five-day bazaar called "Fair Ladies Fair: and conducted a make-over demo for NPC female employes.

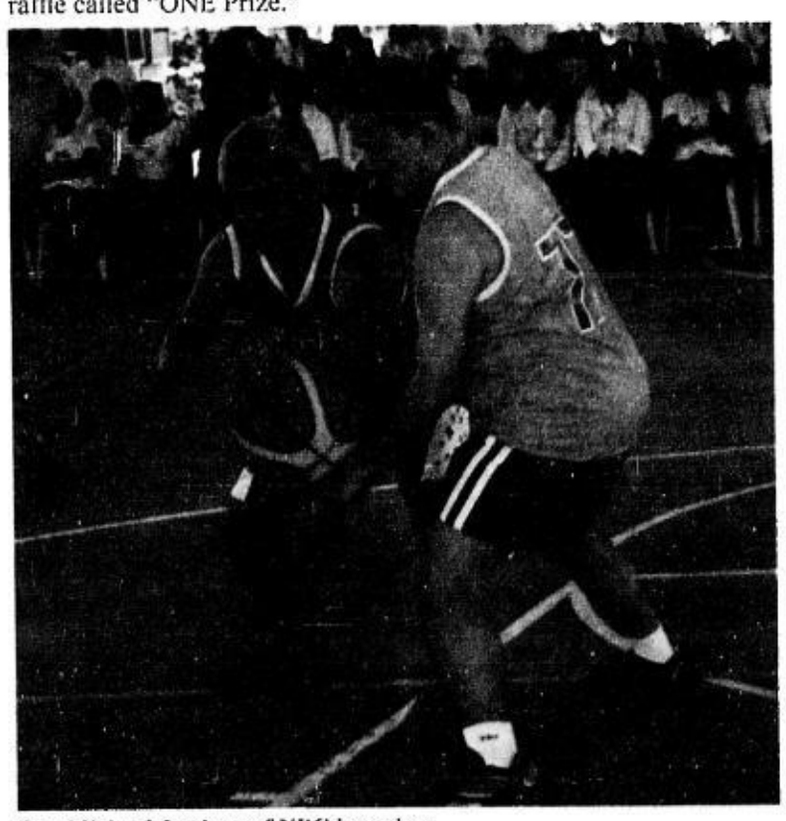
On Day 2, "ONE Theme, ONE Dream, ONE Goal," a mixed sports and fun game ala "Extra Challenge" was held at the NPC grounds from 8 am to 12 noon. This was followed by "ONE Mind," a "70 and One" Quiz Show inspired by the TV show "One vs. 100." The NPC LFI later held a practical gardening demo at the Kanao Room.

A singing and a dance contest dubbed "ONE Note" and "ONE Groove, respectively, highlighted Day 3. Later in the evening, the NPC LFI conducted the Anniversary Cocktails at the NPC Fiesta Room.

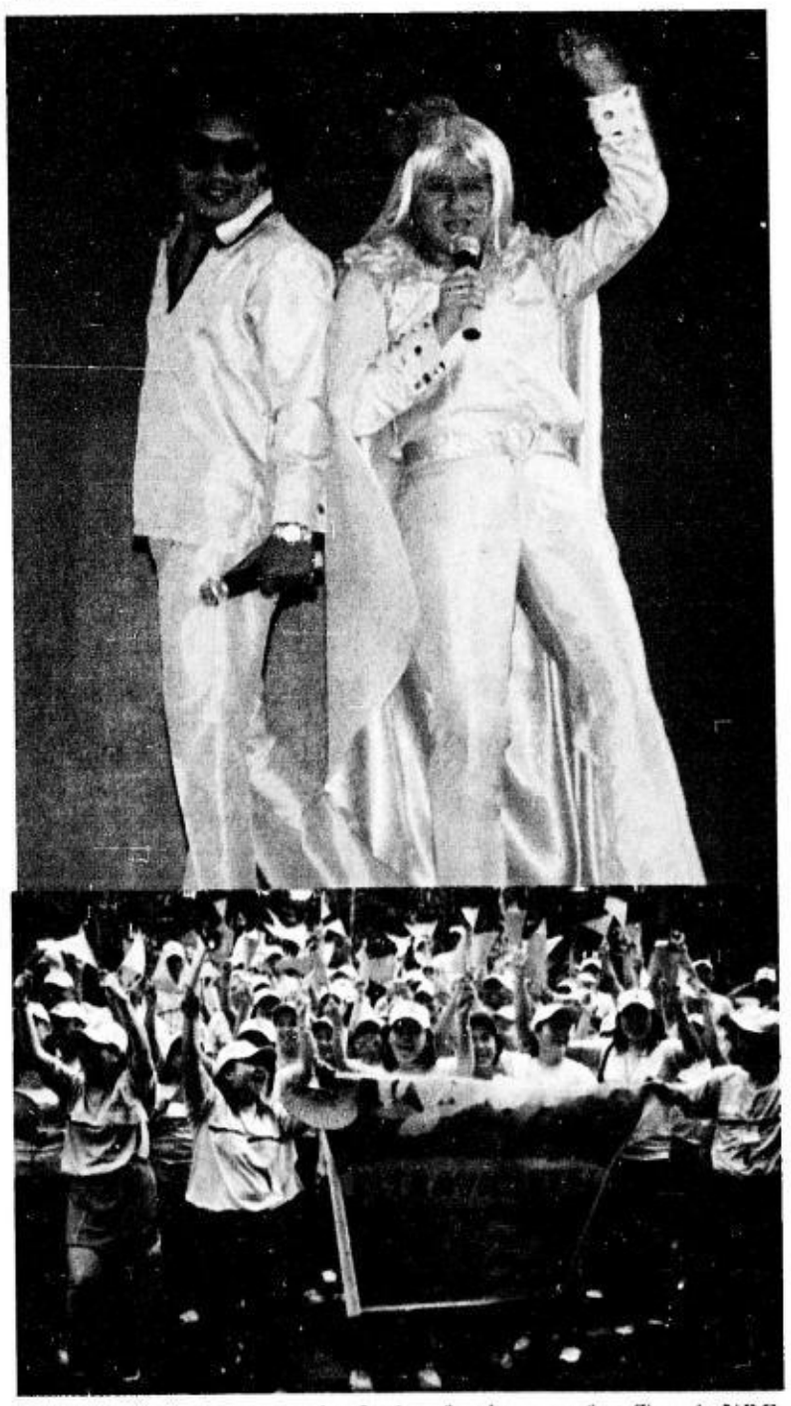
Day 4 showed the humanitarian side of NPC with the community outreach program called "ONE Gift" and "ONE Coffee and Humanity," a humanitarian forum between Senator and Philippine National Red Cross President Richard Gordon and NPC's power producers. In the evening NPC feted energy officials in a dinner called "ONE Force."

Friday, Nov. 9, the last day of the week-long celebration, was for NPC employes. Activities included as variety show called "ONE Moment," a fashion show named "ONE Passion for Fashion," performances by the SPUG-TMS, Legal and After Bands, and a raffle called "ONE Prize."

NPC President Cyril del Callar and his better half, Ms. Josephine Del Callar formally open the week-long bazaar. Top: Dance contestants show off their talents.



The Michael Jordans of NPC in action



Employees march in a parade of colors for the sportsfest. Top: 4. NPC employees show off their musical talents in a singing competition a la Celebrity Duets . . .

One Magic

Every year, around Halloween, children from all over the world dress-up in spooky costumes and proceed from house to house, asking for candy, with the question, "Trick or treat?" The "trick" part is a threat to prank the homeowner or his property if no treat is given.

At the National Power Corporation, children of the NPC Day Care Center as well as of NPC employees donned their Halloween costumes and had a day of "trick-or-treating" for the third year now. This event, dubbed "One Magic", was part of the celebration of the 71st Anniversary of National Power. The kids visited the booths and filled their loot bags with goodies especially prepared for them by functional groups. Other activities included balloon twisting, face painting and coloring activity in the Faber Castell booth.

At the end of the event, President Cyril C. Del Callar gave the Best Costume Awards to Jairus Belarmino (Cherubim) in the Junior Division. TMS bagged the Best Booth Award, while OP ranked second.

Congratulantions!

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Congratulations to the NPC on its 71st Anniversary

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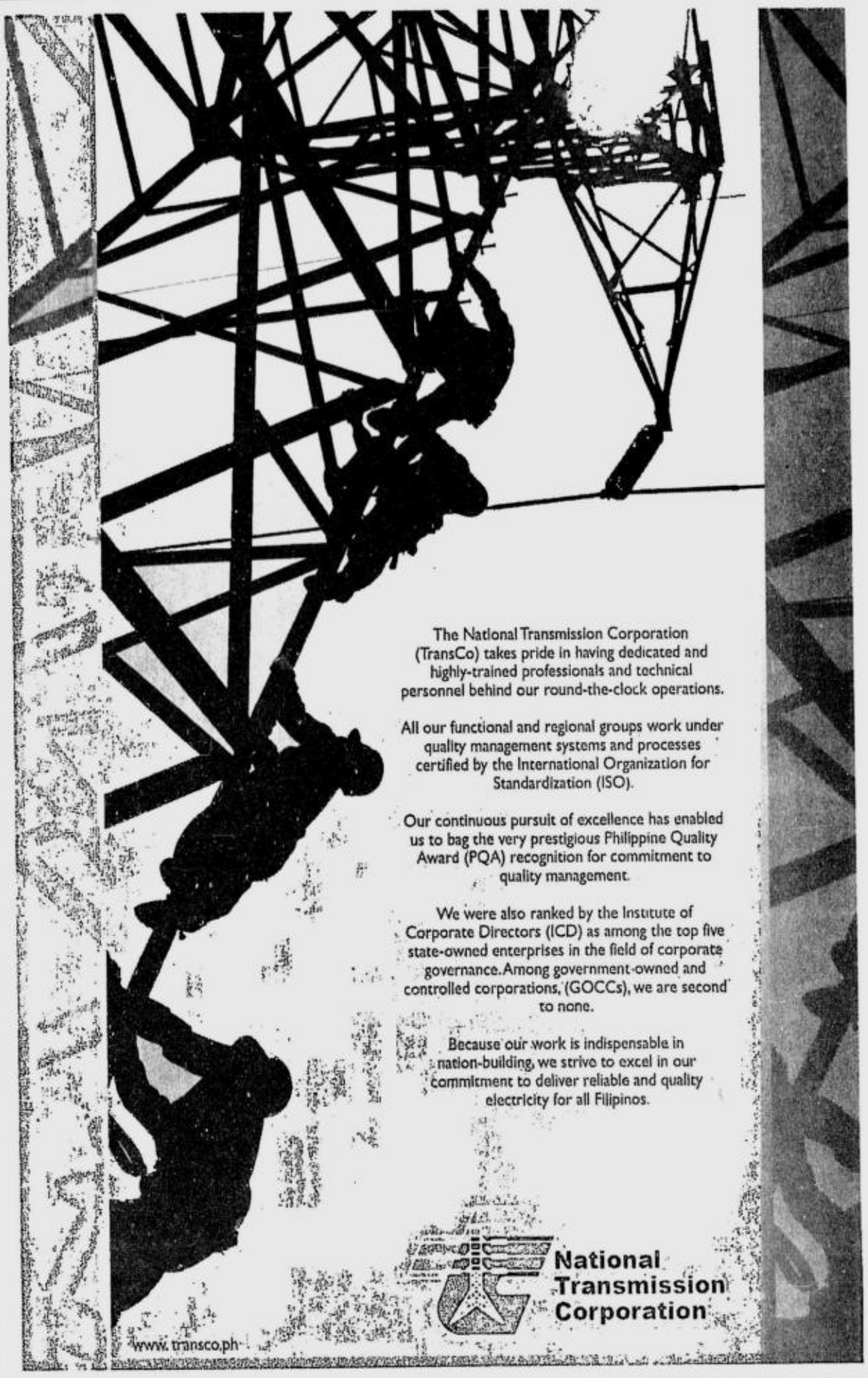
Congratulations to

NATIONAL POWER

on its 71st Anniversary!



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We were also ranked by the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) as among the top five state-owned enterprises in the field of corporate governance. Among government-owned and controlled corporations, (GOCCs), we are second to none.

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National Transmission Corporation

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National Power Corporation on its

71st Anniversary!

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to

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Officers, Managers and Staff

of the

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on the occasion of your

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Award-winning assets

Next to its employees, one of National Power's constant sources of pride is its power plants. Over the years, they have reaped awards for their excellent performance, which is at par with global standards.

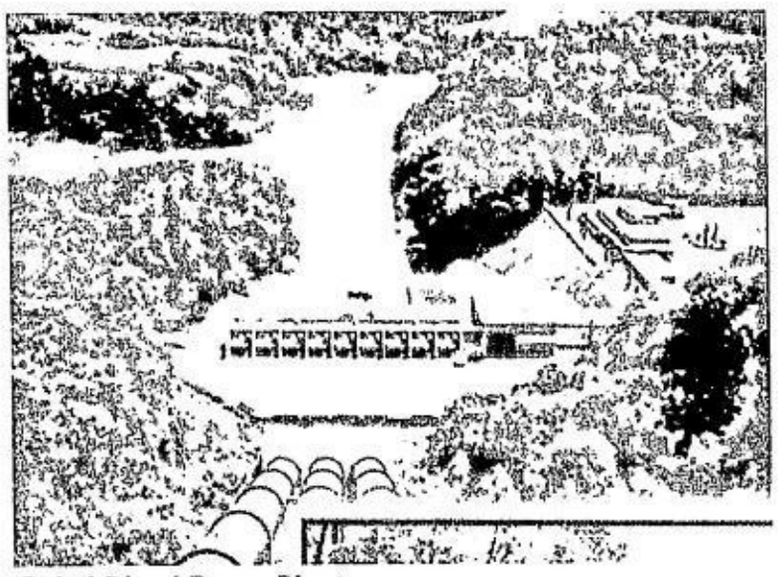
Last year was no different. In November 2006, three of its power plants were named "Best Asian Electricity Projects in the Philippines" during the 2006 Asian Electricity Awards. These were the Leyte Geothermal Power Plant (LGPP) in Tongonan, Leyte; the Pulangui IV Hydroelectric Power plant in Maramag, Bukidnon; and Bohol Diesel Power Plant in Tagbilaran, Bohol.

No less than NPC President Cyril C. Del Callar accepted the award from the Charlton Media group during the 16th Conference of the Electric Power Supply Industry in Mumbai, India. The award was given to the three facilities for successfully securing their respective ISO certifications for Integrated Management System.

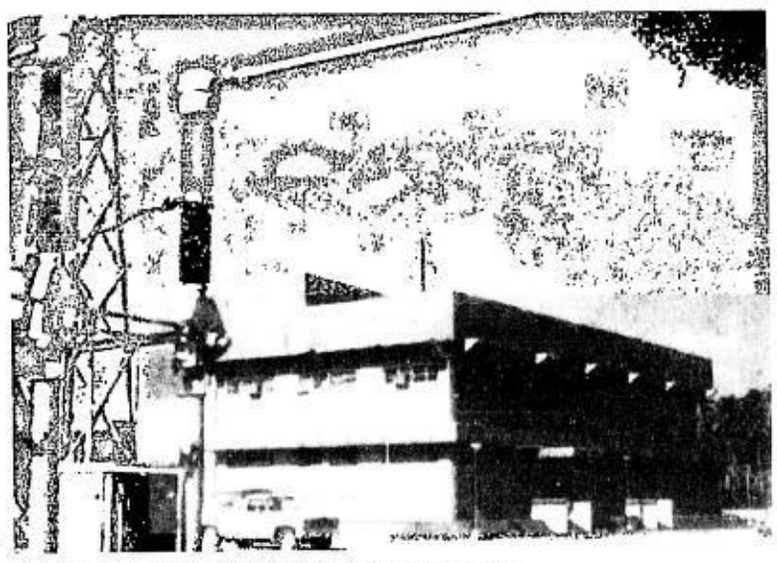
In case of the Bohol diesel power plant, the IMS it secured in October 2006 made it the first-ever diesel power plant of National Power to be given a triple ISO. Considered to be a rare feat for diesel power plants, the IMS certification was also attained by the 22-megawatt facility without hiring a third-party consultant, preferring to work instead with the team of advisors from the LGPP.

As for Pulangui IV, the plant bagged two Gawad Kaligtasan awards from the Department of Labor and Employment in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote occupational health and safety in the workplace. One of the two awards went to Pulangui's very own plant manager, Mr. Rodolfo Brioso, who was also cited by the DOLE in the Individual Category. He was the lone entry from the government sector.

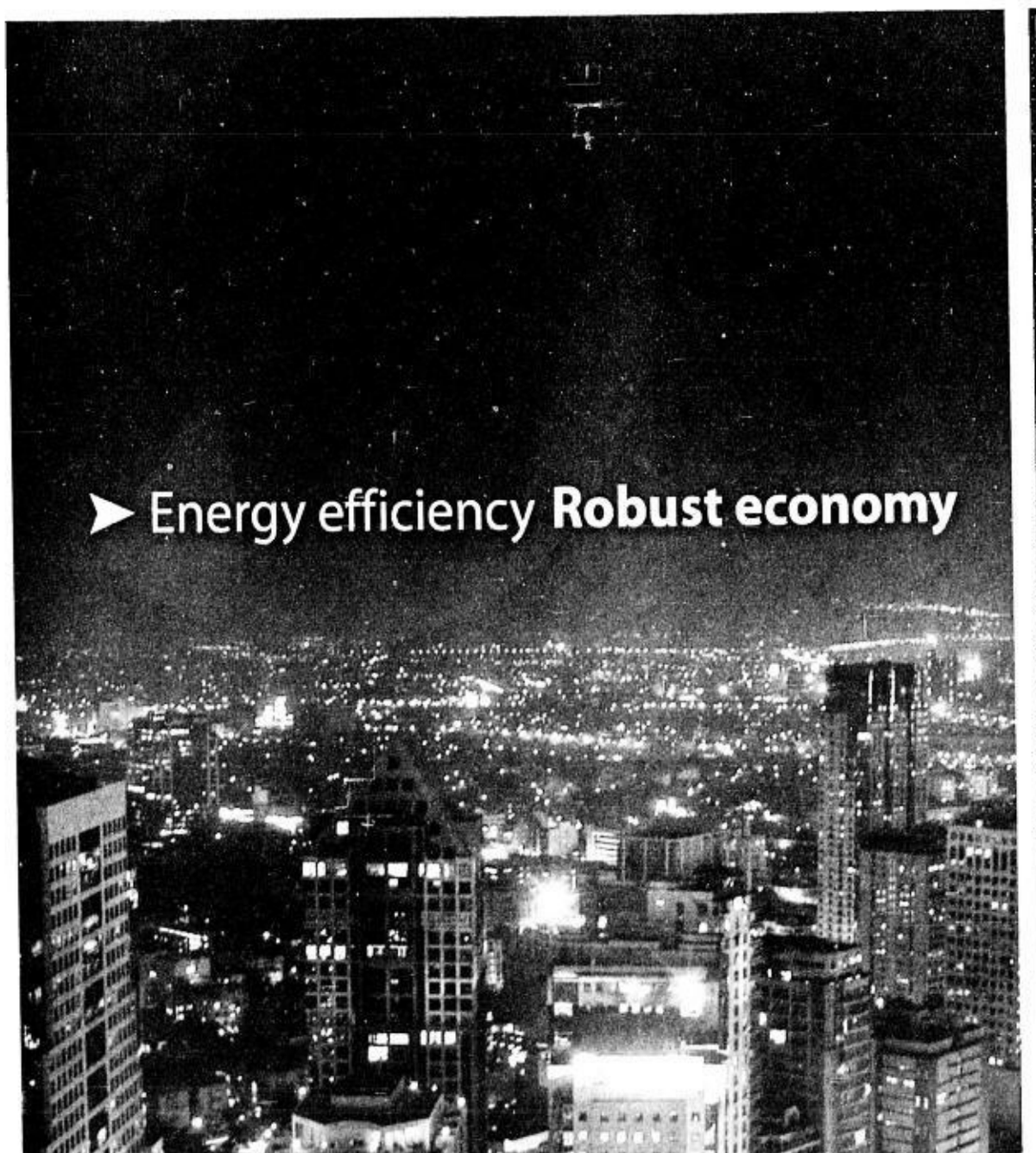
National Power President Cyril C. Del Callar accepts the Asian Electricity Award from Mr. Timothy Charlton, Publisher of Asian Power Magazine, during the 16th CEPSI (Conference of the Electric Power Supply Industry) in Mumbai, India.



Bohol Diesel Power Plant



Pulangui IV Hydroelectric Power Plant



Happy

71st

Anniversary

to the

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Senior Department Manager
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Urbano C. Mendiola, Jr.
Head
Management Committee Secretariat

Congratulations!

&

Best Wishes

SEMIRARA MINING CORP.

Solidarity... from p. 1

Relatedly, we increased our gross generation from 38,758 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in 2005 to 39,147 GWh in 2006. Among the three major grids, Luzon accounted for the biggest share of our electricity output with 26,053 GWh (or 66.55 percent), followed by Mindanao and the Visayas with 7,283 GWh (or 18.60 percent) and 5,305 GWh (or 13.55 percent), respectively. Our small island grids nationwide generated 506 GWh.

In 2006, we continued to fulfill our corporate commitment to energize isolated barangays and far-flung islands that are not connected to any of the main grids. Through our Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG), we completed the Electrification of 100 Barangays Project with the energization of a total of 1,550 households in 38 barangays in Northern Samar and Antique. We also completed the construction of the 45.65 circuit-kilometer, 69-kilovolt Mobo-Aroroy transmission line in Masbate.

We continued to give back to our host-communities, remitting a total of P268 million in financial benefits to them as prescribed by Energy Regulation 1-94. With these funds, our host-communities were able to implement projects focusing on electrification, development and livelihood, reforestation, watershed management, and health and/or environment enhancement.

NPC was cited by the BIR as the top taxpayer in Quezon City.

It was also last year when we launched several new customer-oriented programs, foremost of which was the Customer Choice Program, which we signed with the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) in August. Under this landmark program, industries and commercial establishments operating within the Meralco franchise now have the power to choose between our Time-Of-Use (TOU) Rates and Meralco's blended generation rate.

To assure Meralco's millions of industrial and residential customers with a reliable power supply of 6,600 GWh per year, we also signed a transition supply contract (TSC) with Meralco in November 2006. Our first TSC with Meralco since 1994, this contract reflects our common objective to offer our respective customers the lowest rates possible.

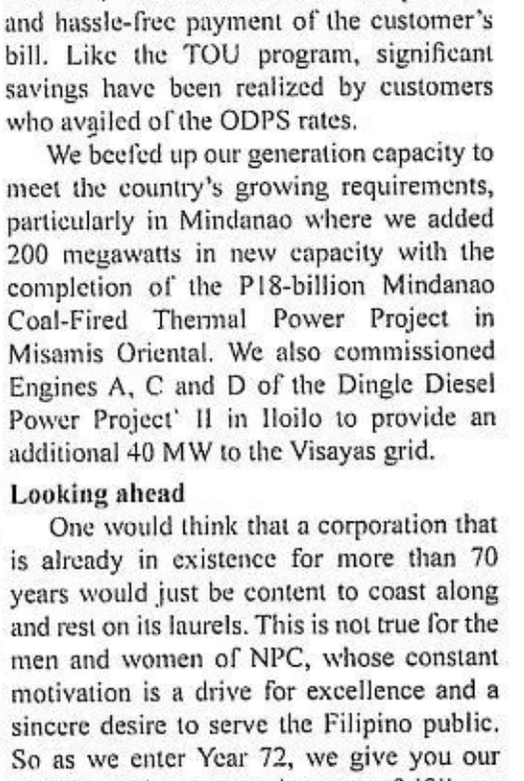
We also continued to implement our TOU rate scheme, which gives our customers the flexibility to program their electricity consumption so that they can avail of our cheaper rates during off-peak hours. Between November 2004 to June 2006 alone, the 165 customers who availed of the TOU program were able to save P2.3 billion on their power costs.

In 2006, we launched the Enhanced ODPS (e-ODPS), a more advanced version of the original One Day Power Sales Program which we introduced in 1998. Under the ODPS, we sell our excess capacity through an on-line bidding system, at a price that is lower than the prevailing grid rate. Now, the improved e-ODPS has convenient features like an internet-based bidding at 24-hour intervals, and an automatic computation and hassle-free payment of the customer's bill. Like the TOU program, significant savings have been realized by customers who availed of the ODPS rates.

We beefed up our generation capacity to meet the country's growing requirements, particularly in Mindanao where we added 200 megawatts in new capacity with the completion of the P18-billion Mindanao Coal-Fired Thermal Power Project in Misamis Oriental. We also commissioned Engines A, C and D of the Dingle Diesel Power Project' II in Iloilo to provide an additional 40 MW to the Visayas grid.

Looking ahead

One would think that a corporation that is already in existence for more than 70 years would just be content to coast along and rest on its laurels. This is not true for the men and women of NPC, whose constant motivation is a drive for excellence and a sincere desire to serve the Filipino public. So as we enter Year 72, we give you our promise and our commitment to fulfill our mandate of providing our fellow Filipinos with quality and reliable electricity supply at competitive rates. With our renewed strength and solidarity, we are confident that we can continue giving you the excellent service that you deserve.



The Masinloc Coal-Fired Power Plant in Zambales. Top: NPC signing a MOA with Meralco to reduce power rates in ten areas.

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ACROSS / A14
Irregularities attended Asean Cebu projects–COA

BUSINESS / B1
More petroleum price hikes coming; average increase seen at P3-P3.50 per liter

NEWS / A2
Senate may reopen probe of NorthRail

NEWS / A13
Aussie firm plan to fertilize Sulu Sea opposed

LIFESTYLE / C1
Nutrition campaign gets rolling literally

'Bad vibes' force Neri to vacate CHEd office

By Jerry E. Esplanada

BAD VIBES.

Believe it or not, this was why Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) Chair Romulo Neri vacated his office and transferred to a

BAD VIBES/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, November 13, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 338 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Police release sketch of poll official's killer

By Tina G. Santos and Allison W. Lopez

WITNESSES HAVE PROVIDED POLICE WITH a description of the possible assassin in the killing of election official Alioden Dalaig as Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim ordered a clampdown on the progress of the investigation.

Releasing an artist's sketch of the presumed killer yesterday, Manila Police Direc-

POLICE/ A13

GMA solons go for the kill

House OKs impeach case–but only in form

By Norman Bordadora

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE on justice, moving swiftly after the minority walked out and called the proceedings a "sham," yesterday declared an impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo to be sufficient in form.

At the same time, however, the pro-Arroyo House majority poised itself to throw out the complaint for lack of substance.

Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez of Parañaque led the walkout on the first day of the committee hearing on the three-page complaint against Ms Arroyo filed by lawyer Roel Pulido, who accused her of betrayal of public trust in connection with corruption allegations.

The walkout followed the rejection by administration lawmakers of a supplemental information filed by opposition lawyer Adel Tamano that would have added teeth to the Pulido case.

"It's a sham complaint," said Golez, pointing out that without the Tamano document as an addendum to the Pulido complaint, the impeachment case would not prosper.

The majority ministerially voted to

GMA SOLONS/ A8

LAWYER Roel Pulido appears to be deep in thought as opposition spokesperson Adel Tamano stresses a point during Monday's House justice committee hearing on the impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo. JOAN BONDOC

Left files new case against President

By Norman Bordadora

UNFAZED BY THE ONE-YEAR PROHIbition against filing another impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, leftist groups and Fernando Poe Jr.'s followers filed another one yesterday.

Ms Arroyo's alleged past sins—the extrajudicial killings of leftist militants and election fraud in 2004 as shown by the "Hello Garci" tapes—again came to the fore, this time with claims that the President herself was involved in the controversial ZTE broadband deal and the Oct. 11 Palace payoffs.

"The one-year bar is not etched in stone," Carol Araullo, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said in an interview. "We can question it before the Supreme Court."

Bayan and the human rights group Karapatan bannered the leftist organizations that filed the impeachment complaint yesterday. Also with them in filing the 111-page complaint was the National Council of Concerned Volunteers (NCCV), an organization of Poe supporters.

"This is a test case. It's just an opinion of many," said NCCV leader Rez Cortez.

Malacañang dismissed the new complaint.

"There is no sense being preoccupied with every political noise by those who can't wait until 2010," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bayan's and Karapatan's concerns center mainly on the alleged government policy that led to the extrajudicial killings of activists. The NCCV,

LEFT FILES/ A8

Lacson says cash gifts taken from police funds

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

THE CASH GIFTS GIVEN TO CONgressmen and governors in Malacañang after separate meetings with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Oct. 11 may have come from the special funds of the Philippine National Police, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday.

Citing police insiders, Lacson said the "real source of the bribe money" were the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response Task Force (P100 million) and the Police Security and Protection Office (P60 million).

On Wednesday, the Senate blue ribbon committee will start its investigation of the money distributed to legislators and local officials. The issue became the basis for one of two supplemental impeachment complaints to substantiate the one that lawyer Roel Pulido had filed against the President.

Only Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio has confirmed his attendance at the Senate hearing at 9 a.m., according to Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, committee chair.

Panlilio had earlier said he received a paper bag containing P500,000 from his chief of staff, which was handed over to the latter by Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza as they walked out of the Palace on Oct. 11. Hours before that, Mendoza

LACSON SAYS/ A8

Fight fat and global warming: Walk

WASHINGTON—AMERICA'S obesity epidemic and global warming might not seem to have much in common. But public health experts suggest people can attack both by cutting calories and carbon dioxide at the same time.

How? Get out of your car and walk or bike half an hour a day instead of driving. And while you're at it, eat less red meat. That's how Americans can simultaneously save the planet and their health, according to doctors and climate scientists.

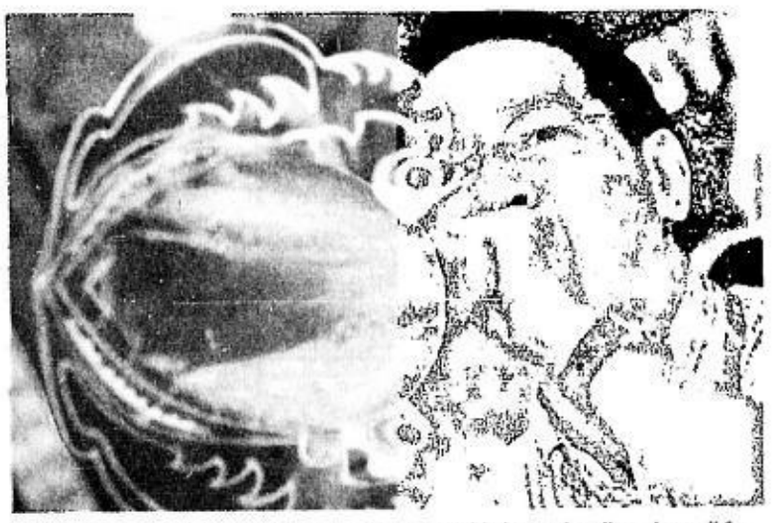
The payoffs are huge, although unlikely to happen.

One numbers-crunching scientist calculates that if all Americans between 10 and 74 walked just half an hour a day instead of drove, they would cut the annual US emissions of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas, by 64 million tons. About 6.5 billion gallons of gasoline would be saved. And Americans would also shed more than 3 billion pounds overall.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is considering public promotion of the "co-benefits" of fighting global warming and obesity-related illnesses through everyday exercise, like walking to school or work, said Dr. Howard Frumkin, director of the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health.

"A simple intervention like

FIGHT FAT/ A13



HEALTH Secretary Francisco Duque blows his horn, leading the call for a total ban on the use of fireworks in homes during Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations. The "Iwas Paputok" campaign was launched yesterday at the Nolasco High School in Tondo, Manila. REM ZAMORA

EARTH BEAUTIES JESSICA Nicole Trisko of Canada, second from left, was proclaimed Miss Earth 2007 during Sunday's coronation at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City. Completing her court are, from left, Miss Earth-Water Silvana Santaella Arellano of Venezuela, Miss Earth-Air Pooja Chitgopeker of India and Miss Earth-Fire Angela Gomez of Spain. RAFFY LERMA

Okinawans show way to long life

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE AVERAGE FILIPINO HAS A life expectancy of 70 years. For the 740 or so centenarians in Okinawa prefecture in Japan, that's just too short.

Okinawa, which has a population of about 1.4 million, has the highest density of centenarians anywhere in the world. There are 58 centenarians for every 100,000 residents in Okinawa, according to September 2007 figures.

Dr. David Itokazu, chair of the Okinawa Gerontology Institute (OGI), who was in the country recently for an international conference on longevity, says Filipinos could live well

OKINAWANS/ A13

Get set to welcome New Year with a toot

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE TIME MAY BE COMING when Filipinos will have to welcome the New Year not with a bang but with only the toot of trumpets and horns.

The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday said it would push for the gradual phaseout of the Filipinos' practice of exploding firecrackers during festivities to welcome the New Year.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III told reporters at the launch of the department's "Iwas-Paputok" Campaign that he would propose such a gradual phaseout before a total ban would be put in place, hopefully by the year 2010.

"That's the ideal target," he said.

Duque said that as a purely public health issue, the DOH preferred a complete ban on firecrackers to keep people from danger.

"From a public health perspective, there is no such thing as a safe firecracker," said Duque.

But he admitted the DOH

GET SET/ A13

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with light rains while Bicol region, Visayas and Northern Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Eastern Visayas which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI GUCOALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/12/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Senate may reopen NorthRail probe

More solons intrigued by De Venecia role in grant of deal to China

WHAT'S INSIDE

TEACHERS get P1,000 more for poll duty /A5

'BORACAY mansion' found to have 2 titles /A9

ATIENZA TAKES back call to abolish LLDA /A7

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Tonette Orejas,
Inquirer Central Luzon

THE SENATE MAY REopen its probe of the $550 million North Luzon Railways Project (NorthRail) to determine Speaker Jose de Venecia's alleged role in sealing the contract with the Chinese government.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago told reporters the inquiry into NorthRail should "definitely be reopened" following information revealed during the inquiry into the National Broadband Network (NBN) deal, another China-funded project, that De Venecia had aggressively lobbied for the Caloocan-to-Malolos rail line.

"In the first place, (the Northrail probe) has not been terminated. Apparently, the evidence received in the last session of Congress was that he (De Venecia) might have expressed illicit interest in that contract," Santiago said.

De Venecia's name was dragged into the NBN probe after documents showed his office had endorsed the proposal of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. to build the NBN. Amsterdam is owned by his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III.

AHI, upon instruction of the office of the Speaker, had submitted a draft letter of recommendation to Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza to grant the NBN to the firm.

Mendoza snubbed the endorsement and proceeded to award the contract to AHI's rival, ZTE Corp. of China. Joey later told the senators that then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos had offered him a bribe and the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had told him to "back off" of the deal.

Administration-backed Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said De Venecia had a pattern of wheeling and dealing in government projects, specifically big-ticket items bankrolled by Chinese loans like NorthRail.

"If the previous probe did not close the book on questions on the project, I am not going to oppose any move to reopen the NorthRail investigation if the senators believe that they need to dig deeper," said Sen. Francis Escudero.

Quoting Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Escudero said the NorthRail project had a lot of "parallelism" with the controversial ZTE-NBN deal.

Sen. Richard Gordon said De Venecia should have "exercised an utmost degree of transparency" when he was lobbying not only for a group of foreign investors, but a handpicked company for a specific project.

"That is where the problem lies, The Speaker must not be involved in this, including his son. We should stay away from those things. It's not good to be involved in contracts related to government, there should be more propriety in terms of dealing with the government," Gordon said.

Meanwhile, the North Luzon Railways Corp. has been paying an average of $400,000 (P17.118 million) monthly in interest payments since January 2005 although the Chinese contractor has yet to build the modern Caloocan-to-Malolos railroad.

"Yes, that's true," Georgina Jota, NLRC executive vice president, said of the interest payments that the government has been paying for the $400-million government-guaranteed loan from the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank of China.

Jota spoke to the INQUIRER in San Fernando City yesterday on behalf of NLRC president Arsenio Bartolome III.

"That's part of the loan," Jota said when asked to confirm reports by Enrile that the NLRC had been paying interest for Section 1 of the NorthRail project's Phase 1.

The total track length of Section 1 is 64.4 km, with six stations in Caloocan, Valenzuela, Marilao, Bocaue, Guiguinto and Malolos, according to an NLRC report.

House passes P1-trillion 2008 budget

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES yesterday passed on third and final reading the country's first trillion-peso budget.

A total of 174 congressmen voted in favor of the general appropriations bill (GAB) on the proposed P1.227-trillion 2008 national budget. Only eight lawmakers voted against the bill, which was highlighted by a P17.8-billion reduction in foreign debt payments and hefty increases for education and health.

The bill retained the controversial "pork barrel" for the members of the House and Senate.

The allocation, known officially as the Presidential Development Assistance Fund, was untouched in the aggregate amount of P6.24 billion, said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the committee on appropriations.

"We didn't touch it because nobody was asking for augmentation," Lagman told reporters after the GAB was passed at around 5:30 p.m.

As the budget stood, each senator would get P60 million and each congressman P20 million in pork, he said.

The proposed budget, also known as House Bill No. 2454, will be transmitted to the Senate tomorrow for the latter's concurrence.

At the rate the bill was passed, Lagman said the House and Senate could consolidate any differences in their respective versions of the bill by the first week of December.

In the House version, he said, the budgets for education and health were increased by P6.9 billion and P6.8 billion, respectively.

Included in the health budget increase was the P1.82-billion added to the P180-million allocation for reproductive health and family planning programs. The outlay for these programs now stands at P2 billion.

Infrastructure received a P3.9 billion increase, while the public safety and security sector, including the Philippine National Police, got an additional P1.8 billion.

Agriculture received P1.4 billion more in its budget, while the Departments of Justice and Energy were granted P753.2 million and P500 million more, respectively, according to Lagman.

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Saguisag weaned off respirator

A DAY AFTER HE WAS FINALLY told of his wife's death, former Sen. Rene Saguisag's condition continued to improve and his doctors began to wean him off the respirator that had helped him breathe.

The spike in his blood pressure on Sunday morning after he learned his wife Dulce had died in the car accident they were involved in did not have an adverse effect on his overall condition, said Dr. Eric Nubla, head of Makati Medical Center's patient relations office.

"I saw attorney Saguisag this morning and he was very calm. He looked very composed," Nubla told reporters after he issued the first of two medical bulletins for the day.

He said the "weaning process from the ventilator" had started, in which doctors were to begin removing the tubes attached to a respirator.

Saguisag suffered severe head and chest injuries, cracking seven ribs in his left side, in the early Thursday morning accident at Osmeña Highway and Arnaiz Avenue in Makati City where a dump truck slammed into the Saguisags' van.

Dulce Saguisag, 64, died at the scene while the family driver, Philip Calvario, and dance instructor Rhea Obong were injured. Calvario was severely hurt and remains confined in the intensive care unit next to Saguisag. *DJ Yap*

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marie france

ESCALATING COSTS: A CRISIS FOR MANY FILIPINOS. A TEST FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE.

Shortages in essential goods, together with rising prices of fuel, energy, transport and basic commodities have a tremendous impact on most Filipinos, especially the poor. Higher prices reduce one's purchasing power, take home pay, and impoverish many.

EVERYONE THUS MUST BUCKLE DOWN TO WORK. A CRISIS IS LOOMING. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

FUEL COST WILL CONTINUE TO RISE

Oil is pushing in the range of $ 95 to $ 100 per barrel. The reason is both a demand and a supply problem. Demand keeps rising due to increasing requirements of high-growth countries like China and India and the onset of the winter season.

Oil will remain the main source of fuel and energy in this century. Even as supply is tightening. The major oil-producing countries like Iran, Iraq and Nigeria have had problems. Globally, there is a serious shortage of refining capacity. Most refinery facilities are old and outmoded. A new refinery takes at least three years to complete.

WE URGE FULL COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 14d OF THE OIL DEREGULATION LAW.

COPW has always supported the Oil Deregulation Law because it provides safeguards against undue and unreasonable oil price increases at the expense of consumers.

Section 14d of the Law requires that any increase or decrease in the price of oil must first be submitted to the Task Force of the Dept. of Energy and the Dept. of Justice for approval. We do not see that this is being done.

COPW appeals to President Arroyo to ensure the strict compliance with Section 14d so that there is full transparency when price hike petitions are made.

GOVERNMENT MUST SHOW POLITICAL WILL TO MITIGATE INCREASE IN FARES AND TRANSPORT COSTS.

COPW has requested the transport sector NOT to push through with a transport strike as this will hurt the riding public.

In return, LTFRB Chairman Thompson Lantion must make good on his pledge made last Nov. 9 that **colorum** and **kotong** practices will be eradicated before the Christmas season.

Also, COPW will work closely with PETRON to designate a number of gas stations in Metro Manila for the exclusive use of the public transport sector where they can avail of fuel at wholesale prices.

POWER RATES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE.

Meralco says it will reduce residential power rates by 34 centavos per kwh beginning this November. That's the good news.

The bad news is that Meralco has a pending rate increase of P 9.20 per kwh representing its under-recoveries from September 2006 to July 2007, a lag of 14 months. The Energy Regulatory Commission has yet to act on this rate increase.

Because a P 9.20 per kwh rate increase is big, COPW is requesting Meralco to stagger this increase over a 12-month period.

PRICES OF PRIME COMMODITIES ARE RISING.

The cost of raw material inputs of agricultural products have increased. As we approach the Christmas season, this means higher prices for rice, sugar, eggs, dressed chicken, meat, bread, noodles, pastries and cooking oil.

The large subsidies granted by the U.S., Europe, and South American countries to their farmers planting corn, wheat, coconut and palm oil for conversion to ethanol to displace petroleum-based fuel have tripled the prices of agricultural products in less than two years.

At the same time, the worst drought in 100 years has hit Australia and New Zealand, among the biggest exporters of wheat. This is why wheat prices are up.

GOVERNMENT MUST ENSURE THAT BASIC FOOD PRODUCTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE POOR AT SUBSIDIZED PRICES.

A RATIONING PROGRAM to be implemented with the participation of religious groups, civil society, NGOs and the business sector will help the poor cope with price increases. Today the poor spend 55% of their income on food.

COPW will propose that the private sector and the Dept. of Social Welfare create a working group to implement and audit this rationing program. To maximize its benefits and to reach out to more poor people, accurate identification of beneficiaries and the use of control mechanisms such as ATM - type cards with magnetic strips can be considered.

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

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Tutors to get P1,000 more

PUBLIC SCHOOL teachers who served in the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections will get an additional election duty pay of P1,000.

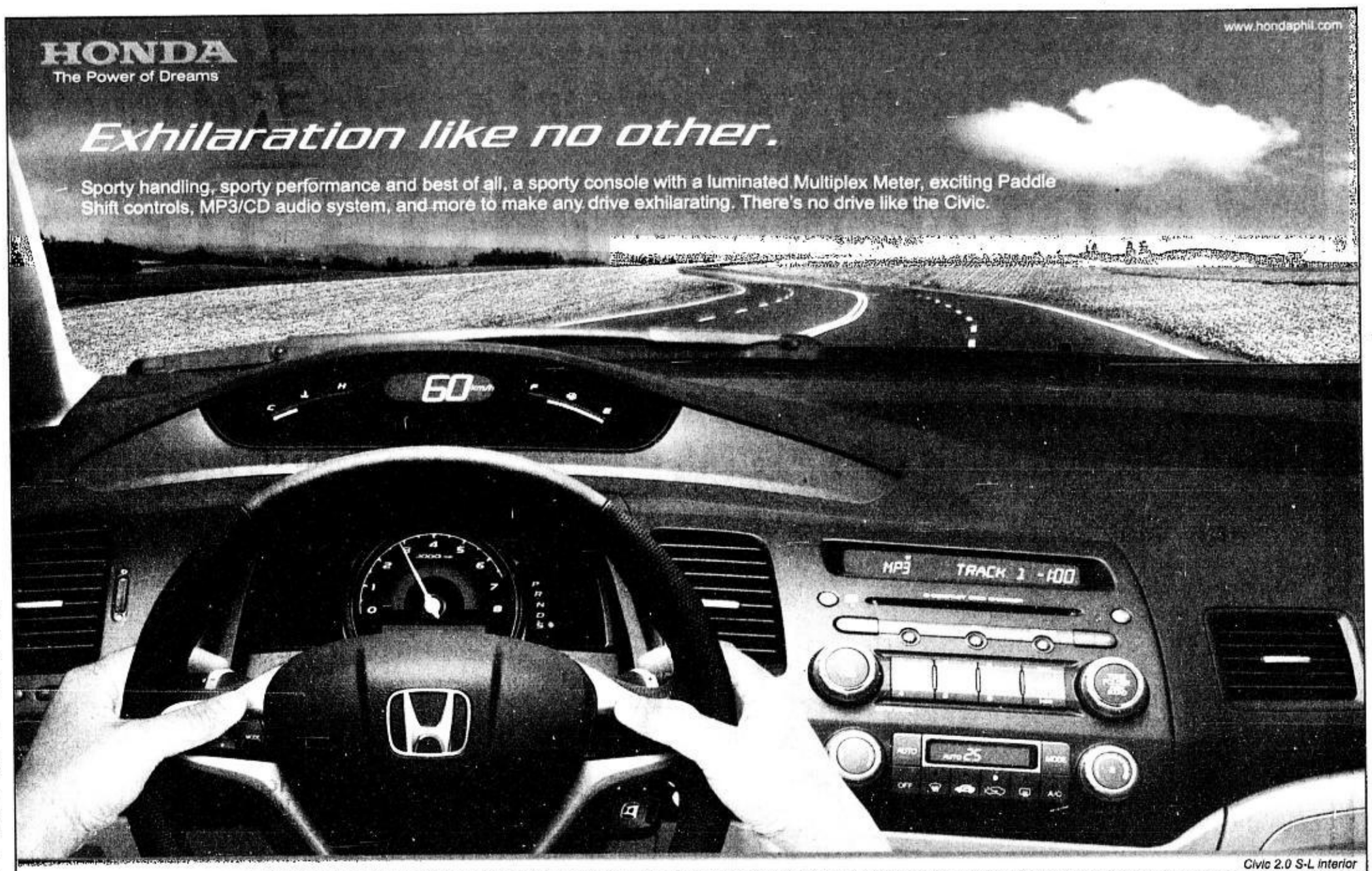
President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she had ordered Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to release funds for the additional pay, bringing to P2,500 the amount the teachers would get for the poll duty.

A maximum of P1,500 per teacher for barangay election duty was authorized in the 2007 national budget.

Ms Arroyo said presidential prerogative allowed her to override the ceiling and that funds would be sourced from savings "made possible by the prudent utilization of our fiscal surplus."

The President also said she had directed the budget and education departments to coordinate with the Commission on Elections "so that miscommunications and delays are avoided" in the release of the funds.

Christine O. Avendaño



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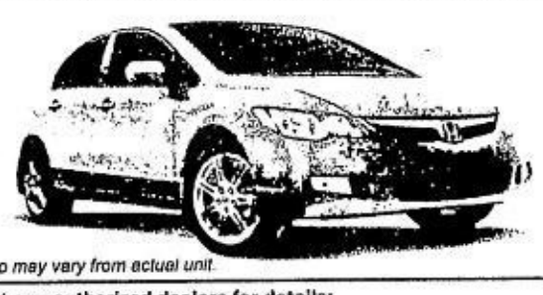
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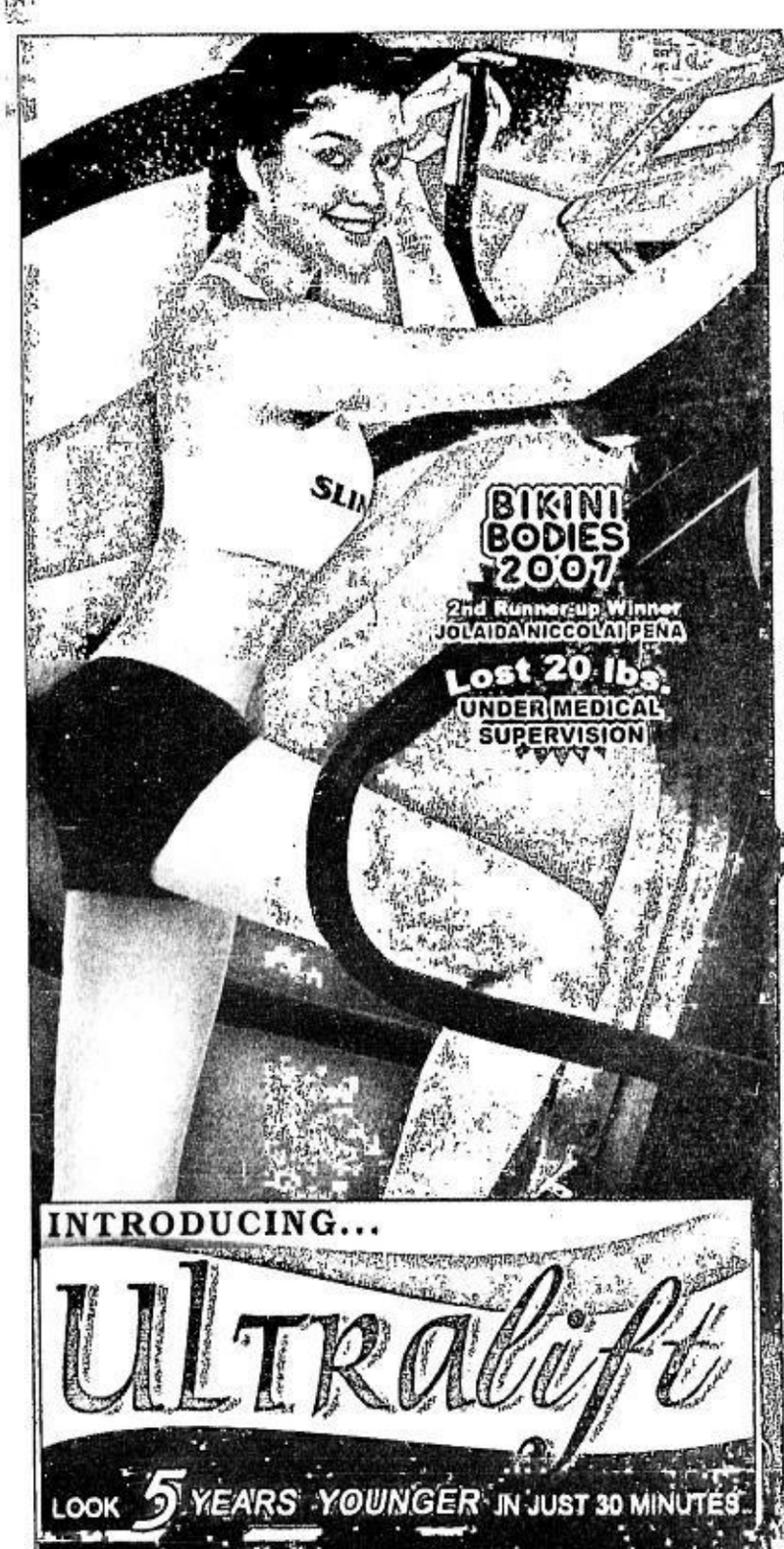

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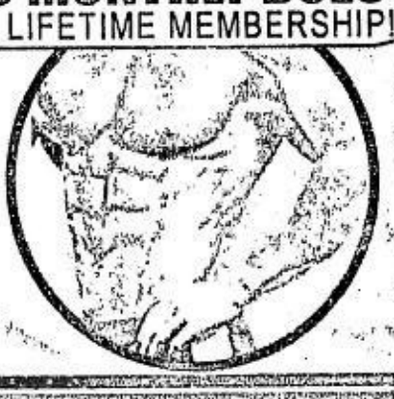

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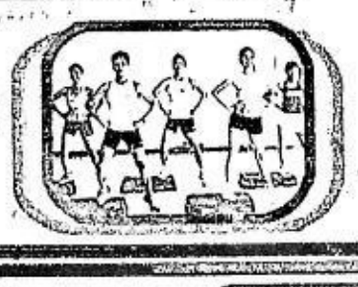

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Fellow Citizens, this corrupt government must go.

Gloria-Noli RESIGN!

MANIFESTO CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO AND NOLI DE CASTRO AND FOR THE HOLDING OF SPECIAL ("SNAP") ELECTIONS WITHIN 60 DAYS

WHEREAS, because of the numerous unresolved scandals involving the present administration, including but not limited to the *"Hello Garci"* Election controversy, the ZTE , North Rail Project, Diosdado Macapagal Highway scandals, the Joc-joc Bolante Fertilizer scam, Jose Pidal caper, hundreds of unresolved extra-judicial killings and the latest Malacañang Bribery Incident, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has completely lost her moral authority to govern this country;

WHEREAS, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has lost public sympathy and support in the light of her tainted electoral mandate and her responsibility for the numerous controversies hounding her administration, as consistently shown by survey after survey conducted by reputable polling entities;

WHEREAS, Noli De Castro is a member of the Arroyo cabinet and is a beneficiary of the cheating perpetrated during the May 2004 Elections and is also considered to be a silent partner in crime of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo not only because of his close personal association and unflinching support for Arroyo but also because of his failure to stand-up against and denounce the abuses and excesses of the Arroyo regime;

WHEREAS, the sham impeachment case filed by personalities connected with Malacanang effectively sabotages and ridicules the impeachment process;

WHEREAS, the only peaceful, legal and constitutional option available to the Nation under the circumstances and to prevent the situation from developing into a full-scale conflict or civil strife is for GMA and Noli De Castro to resign from their respective positions as President and Vice-President, of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the **1987 Constitution**, under ***Section 10, Article VII***, expressly provides that:

> *"Sec. 10. The Congress shall, at ten o'clock in the morning of the third day after the vacancy in the offices of the President and Vice-President occurs, convene in accordance with its rules without need of a call and within seven days enact a law* ***calling for a special election to elect a President and a Vice-President to be held not earlier than forty-five days nor later than sixty days from the time of such call****. Xxx."*

NOW, **WHEREFORE**, We the undersigned citizens, taxpayers and voters of the Republic of the Philippines, in our capacity as the true sovereign of the Nation, ***DO HEREBY:***

1. Call upon Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Noli De Castro to spare the country from further turmoil and violence by ***immediately resigning*** from their respective positions as President and Vice-President of the Philippines;

2. Demand the holding of a ***Special Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election*** within Sixty (60) Days from the date of the resignation of GMA and Noli de Castro, pursuant to **Section 10, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution**;

May God bless our Great Nation!

DONE this November 2007.

AQUILINO PIMENTEL, JR.
Senator

ANTONIO F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

SERGE OSMENA
Former Senator

BISHOP DEOGRACIAS INIGUEZ
Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya

PASTOR DOMENG RIVERA
Phils for Jesus Movement [PJM]

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Spokesman, Bangon Pilipinas

JOSEFINA LICHAUCO
Former Secretary of Trasportation and Communications

AMB. GUALBERTO LUMAUIG
Convenor, Advocates for Good Governance; Former Lakas Spokesman, Presidential Adviser

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Former CG, Philippine Army

LT. GEN. ROMEO DOMINGUEZ
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LLDA gets a break

ENVIRONMENT SECretary Lito Atienza has backtracked from his call for the abolition of the Laguna Lake Development Authority and has agreed to work with the agency to dismantle illegal fish pens in Laguna de Bay.

Atienza and LLDA manager Edgar Manda agreed to immediately clear the lake of hundreds of illegal fish pens that have been blamed for the worsening pollution in the lake.

"The LLDA must look at our laws pertaining to pollution and enforce them," Atienza said.

Manda said he was able to convince Atienza the illegal pens were only one of the causes of pollution in the lake that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the LLDA had to curb. *TJ Burgonio*

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Gracing the event as guest of honor and speaker is Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. For inquiries, contact Wilma at 735-5995 or 09178072222, SBC Alumni Office, Mendiola, Manila.

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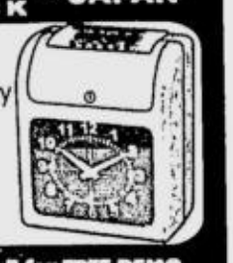

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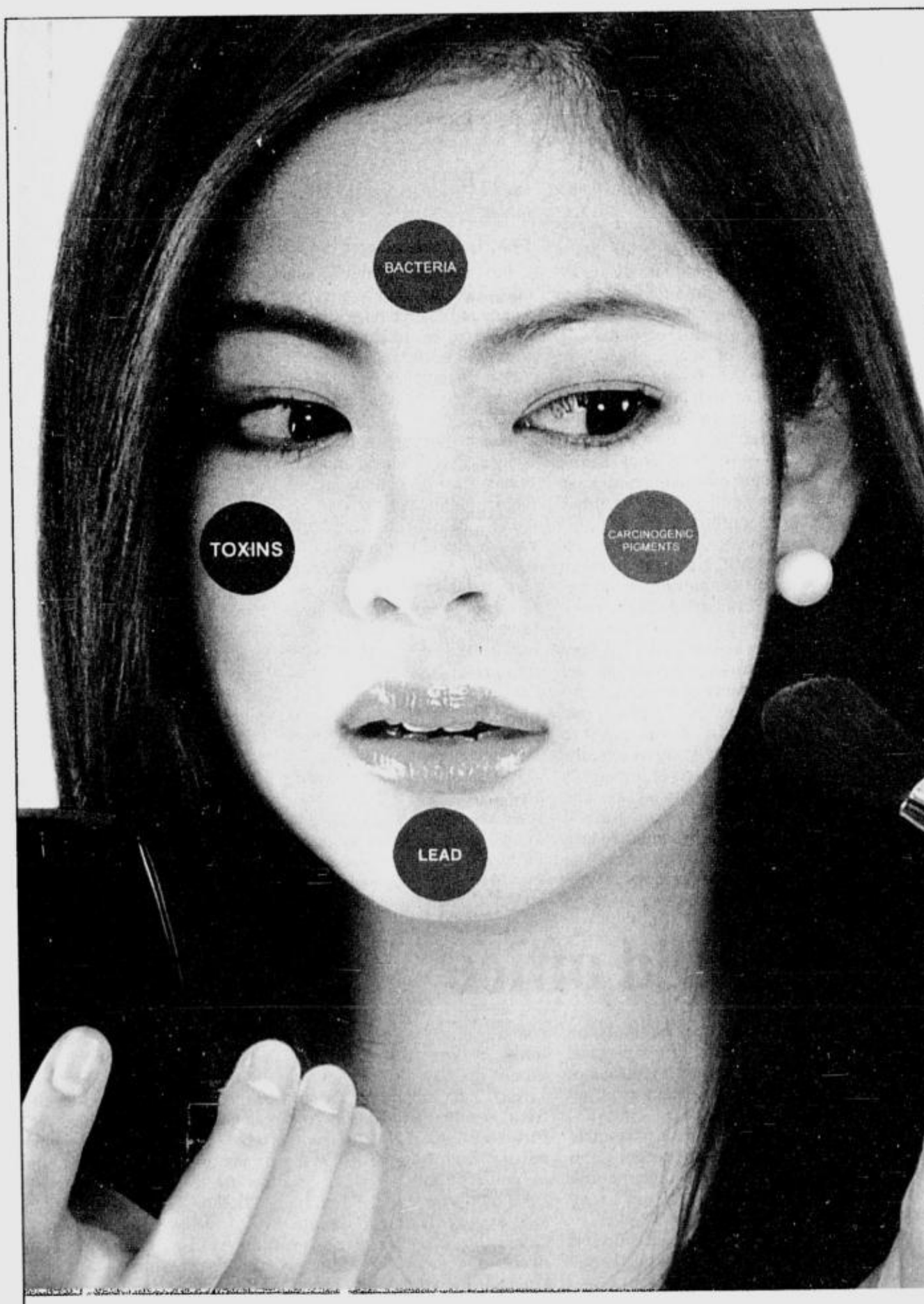

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GMA solons go for the kill

From page A1

find the Pulido complaint sufficient in form after it was duly endorsed by a congressman and referred to the committee on justice, thereby putting in effect a one-year constitutional ban on another impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

The committee will resume its hearing on Wednesday to tackle the issue of whether the complaint is sufficient in substance.

"By refusing the supplement and addendum we're left with a weak complaint. Sooner or later they will find the Pulido complaint to be lacking in substance," Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez told the INQUIRER. That would sound the death knell of the case.

"Even the opposition believes that without the addendum, the impeachment complaint is weak. So, it's only a matter of time before it will be dismissed," said Senior Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II of Mandaluyong.

Members of the minority said they had hoped some independent-minded administration congressmen would support their moves to allow the Tamano addendum.

They, however, only found themselves and the Pulido complaint endorser—Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis—batting for the supplemental complaint.

"The members of the minority do not wish to participate in this proceeding for as long as the addendum and the supplemental complaint submitted by Attorney Tamano is not part of it," Golez said.

"I think this will allow the committee to proceed with its business according to its duty, according to its pleasure and intention and dispose as quickly as possible of this sham impeachment complaint," he said.

Accusations dismissed

Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, committee chair, shrugged off Golez's accusation that the administration congressmen were on a mission to kill immediately the impeachment complaint after Malacañang gave cash gifts from P200,000 to P500,000 on Oct. 11.

"It's unfairly stated although it was sugar-coated ... We have no mission here to do anything based on the allegations of the several people," Defensor said, referring to the allegations of cash-gifts distributed to lawmakers in Malacañang.

Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III moved that administration congressmen who went to Malacañang on Oct. 11 for a breakfast meeting and received cash gifts be disqualified from further participation in the impeachment hearings. He was voted down, 28-8.

"You talk of due process, what about our right to participate ... I'm clear of any guilt," Manila Rep. Trisha Bonoan-David said in reaction to the opposition's tirades against the administration lawmakers' integrity.

Unfortunate

"It's unfortunate ... they have lost the forum for them to prove that they're innocent, to prove that they did not receive bribe," Tamano told reporters following the walkout.

"Because they did not want a credible impeachment proceeding, they blocked every move that we made," he said.

Defensor in the morning had ruled that the referral on Oct. 11 of the complaint to the committee on justice made by Deputy Speaker Raul del Mar of Cebu was valid. The referral thus imposed the one-year ban against any more impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Rodriguez questioned that validity of the referral since the House had designated Speaker Jose de Venecia as the only one who could refer the impeachment complaint to the committee on justice. "Delegated power cannot be further delegated," he argued.

Following a motion for a ruling by the chair on the matter, Defensor promptly declared Del Mar's referral following instructions from De Venecia valid and in accordance with the rules of the House and with the Constitution.

Addendum new complaint?

The minority then questioned Defensor's action as chair on Nov. 6 to turn away Tamano's 38-page supplemental complaint on his own and without any committee deliberation. Tamano on Nov. 5 submitted to the committee his supplement to the Pulido complaint.

"The chairman obliterated the complaint before the committee could tackle the matter. Is (the supplemental information) a new complaint? This is something to be debated," said Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza of the progressive bloc in the House minority.

The majority countered that the addendum was a new complaint altogether and that, as chair, Defensor had the "inherent authority" to enforce the rules of the House.

The rules on impeachment show that no new complaint against the same impeachable official may be filed after one has already been referred to the committee on justice.

"(The Tamano addendum) is a new complaint in the guise of an amendment," said Deputy Speaker Simeon Datumanong of Maguindanao. Datumanong is a former chair of the committee of justice.

"The chair has the inherent authority to enforce the rules of the House," said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, a vice chair of the House committee on justice.

Plan to go to court

Voting 27-8, the administration-dominated committee upheld Defensor's authority to return the supplemental information to Tamano.

After a lunchtime break, the minority returned with the issue of a motion for reconsideration of Defensor's action to return the supplemental complaint.

Defensor, however, would no longer have any of it as he argued that the committee, through its vote, already upheld his decision to return the supplemental complaint instead of allowing the committee take jurisdiction of it.

"The issue is already rex judicata," Defensor said.

Tamano said he would question the committee's actions before the Supreme Court.

Pulido's complaint accused Ms Arroyo of betrayal of public trust after she allegedly failed to stop the $329-million national broadband contract with China's ZTE Corp. despite allegations of overpricing and bribery against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos.

Tamano's addendum alleged that the President herself was involved after Jose de Venecia III, the Speaker's son, said she told her socioeconomic planning secretary to approve the contract.

Tamano also adverted to the alleged payoffs to congressmen in Malacañang.

Left files new case against President

From page A1

Cortez said, remained concerned with holding Ms Arroyo accountable for the alleged election fraud in 2004 committed against Poe, the late movie actor who lost the vote.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona also signed as a complainant, along with National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera, Amado Gat Inciong, Sister Mary John Mananzan and former Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano.

Other organizations represented in the complaint included the Confederation of Unity Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees, Promotion of Church People's Response, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Health Action for Democracy, Philippine Peace Center, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and First Quarter Storm Movement.

De Venecia support sought

"As long as the threat of impeachment will come from the House of Representatives, (Speaker Jose de Venecia) can leverage with Ms Arroyo for his moral revolution," Araullo said.

She said the groups were hoping De Venecia's allies would support moves to change the rules of impeachment to allow the consolidation of impeachment complaints filed within the year.

The five causes of action against Ms Arroyo include conspiring abetting, rewarding, tolerating with impunity as a state policy extrajudicial executions; participating in the controversial National Broadband Network deal with ZTE Corp.; authorizing and or allowing the distribution of bribe money to members of Congress and local officials; suppressing civil and political rights to cover up the electoral fraud in 2004; and engaging in illegal government contracts.

Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño, Gabriela Representatives Liza Maza and Luz Ilagan, and Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran endorsed the complaint.

"Members of the progressive party-list bloc are endorsing the complaint in order to give Congress the opportunity to provide substance to an otherwise empty and sham proceedings based on the three-page impeachment complaint," the five lawmakers said in a joint statement. They referred to the case filed by lawyer Roel Pulido *(See related story on Page A1.)*

"The filing and endorsement of this complaint also gives Congress the golden opportunity to correct the anomalous and ridiculous practice of banning impeachment complaints for one year after a complaint has been filed and referred to the House committee on justice," they said.

When ban starts

The lawmakers said the Constitution held public officials accountable to the people all the time.

"We maintain that as mandated in the Constitution, the one-year ban starts only when an impeachment proceeding is initiated in the House, meaning when the plenary approves or rejects the committee report on the impeachment complaint," they said.

"We are ready to defend the complaint in the justice committee, the plenary and even the Supreme Court," they added.

Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, chair of the House committee on justice, said the committee would discuss the new complaint if it is referred to the committee. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Lacson says cash gifts taken from police funds

From page A1

told Panlilio about some "help" coming for barangay projects.

Mendoza said the P500,000 that he and Panlilio each got was given to him in the presence of certain officials inside a Palace room.

While Mendoza announced that he planned to use the money for a public park honoring Bulacan's heroes and artists, Panlilio said he would not use the money until its source was established.

Lacson sought the Senate inquiry into what he described as "clear-cut bribery." If the senators consider the cash handouts normal like the pork barrel, it would set a bad precedent when government funds are distributed in cash rather than special allotment release orders (Saro) through the Department of Budget and Management, he said.

Lacson claimed that the investigation would root out the real source of the money.

Kampi, DILG or PNP?

One of the biggest sources of the money distributed in Malacañang was the Bureau of Customs, according to a source, whose rank is equivalent to a general in the military. The source did not want to be named owing to the sensitivity of the issue.

According to the police official, the money was entered as a "special fund" in the PNP budget, purported as an item for the PNP's counterinsurgency program in support of the military's own campaign.

The checks for the fund were cleared in the name of the PNP in July, the source said. The money was later transferred to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the source added.

Camp Crame talk

In Camp Crame, this report is talked about in circles and suspicions are that the money came from that "special fund."

The PNP source had asked around and confirmed that the money could not have been reimbursed from the PNP's recruitment budget because the money for that originated from the 2001 General Appropriations.

"*Di nila magalaw yun* (They cannot touch it because it's part of the 2001 budget)," he said.

DILG men reportedly took the money in tranches, loading the P1,000 bills in trunks of cars in July, the source said.

"*Di nga magkasya* (The space was not enough to fit in all the money)," the source said.

The source said Ms Arroyo might not have known about this operation. Asked why, the source said: "The President has left party matters to Ronnie (Puno) and other Kampi leaders."

Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita Villarosa had earlier confirmed that it was Kampi that gave money to its members following their supposed requests for financial help for local projects.

Villarosa, who represents Occidental Mindoro, said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, Kampi president, knew about the money distributed to congressmen.

Palace denial

Panlilio and Mendoza earlier asked the Office of the President to confirm if the money indeed came from that office because it was given at the Palace grounds.

In an Oct. 19 letter, the finance department of Malacañang denied it disbursed such an amount to their provinces.

After a string of denials by several of its leaders, the League of Provinces of the Philippines claimed ownership of the money given to Panlilio and Mendoza.

Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, LPP spokesperson, and Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, LPP secretary general, said the funds came from the league's P21-million account for a "capability-building" program intended for new governors.

The claims only caused Panlilio to doubt that the LPP was the real source of the money.

Sen. Francis Escudero said the investigation was meant to let the public know what really happened on Oct. 11, especially what was the money for and where the money came from. If the act would be classified as a bribe, the recipients could not easily give it away to the masses because the money should be used as evidence for the crime, he said.

Pointless exercise?

But three administration senators belittled the investigation as a pointless exercise since it has yet to be established that such act constituted bribery.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile maintained that the senators who called for the probe should first establish that the act of giving away cash was indeed an act of bribery before conducting an inquiry for an illicit act.

Sen. Richard Gordon concurred, claiming that the Ombudsman and not the Senate was in the best position to determine whether this was bribery or not. "I don't know if it fulfills the elements of the bribe for all intents and purposes, they could be giving money for their political constituents as political support," Gordon said in an interview.

For the money to be considered a bribe, Gordon said somebody must say that they were given the P200,000 to P500,000 worth of cash stashed in a Manila envelope or brown bag to do something like voting a certain way or granting a project to a handpicked contractor.

"What makes it wrong is when the source of money is from *jueteng*, that's why a public official should always know the source of the money. If that is from government funds, that is always done by every Philippine President because it is no different from pork barrel," Gordon said.

For Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, there was nothing wrong about the cash gifts as explained by the officials involved, except that the distribution was made at the Palace.

Santiago said the President was not only a leader of the country but the head of her party, Kampi. "It is a valid defense if it is raised by the administration officials that the distribution of money in Malacañang was owing to a decision of the directorate or a council of the coalition of the President's coalition party."

"There will be no illegality because all political parties are supposed to give financial backing to all its incumbents in government. There would be nothing wrong in that position," Santiago said. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

'Bad vibes' force Neri to vacate CHEd office

From page A1

room one floor up upon the advice of a Chinese feng shui expert.

"Apparently, something's wrong in that room downstairs. I learned that three of its former occupants are now afflicted with cancer," among other life-threatening ailments, Neri told the INQUIRER.

Commissioner Nona Ricafort and some CHEd insiders confirmed what Neri said.

A CHEd old-timer described the office on the fifth floor of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) building on San Miguel Avenue at Ortigas Center as "perfect for some peace and quiet, but at times it could send shivers down your spine."

According to Neri, "the new office is no more than 40 square meters. It is slightly bigger than the fifth floor office. Before I transferred, it was very basic and sparsely furnished. It had a table and some chairs. I had to bring up a sofa and a small conference table with four chairs."

Idyllic spot

The new office may not look like it came straight from the pages of Architectural Digest, but it is "definitely *maaliwalas* (spacious)."

"The room has its own toilet and bath ... And it won't cost the commission a thing," Neri said.

CHEd's "monthly rental stays at P641,320.55, or P7,695,846.60 a year," Ricafort noted.

DAP president Antonio Kalaw, "being good friends with the chair, offered that supposedly idyllic spot—adjacent to his sixth floor office—free of charge," Ricafort said.

Harmony and balance

Neri also sought the advice of the same feng shui expert when he was with the Department of Budget and Management and the National Economic Development Authority.

Feng shui, as defined by Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, is the Chinese art or practice of creating harmonious surroundings that enhance the balance of yin and yang, as in arranging furniture or determining the siting of a house.

For feng shui adherents like Neri, harmony and balance can result from the manipulation and channeling of nonphysical forces or energies by means of the proper placement of physical objects.

Some areas are not suitable for human settlement and should be left in their natural state, according to Neri's feng shui consultant.

"Apparently, the old office on the fifth floor is one of them," Ricafort said.

Better view

At his sixth floor office, Neri will "surely have a much better view of what's going on downstairs," according to some CHEd staff members.

The CHEd occupies the entire fifth floor, which houses the commissioners' offices and portions of the DAP building ground floor.

Neri has marching orders from President Macapagal-Arroyo to troubleshoot the commission from August this year to February 2008.

He took over the CHEd portfolio on Aug. 16 due to Carlito Puno's alleged failure to aggressively implement the ladderized education program.

Positive energies

Higher education stakeholders like the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (Pacu) are closely monitoring the ongoing probes of alleged CHEd anomalies.

One Pacu official said he hoped the "positive energies" in Neri's office would convince the CHEd chair in spilling the beans on every person involved in the controversial National Broadband Network project of the Arroyo administration.

"If that happens, only then will I believe in feng shui," quipped the educator who asked not be named.

Neri had earlier testified in a Senate hearing that then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. had offered him P200 million to endorse a proposal of China's ZTE Corp. to undertake the NBN project.

Abalos denied the charge and later quit his post.

'Boracay mansion' has 2 titles

SANDIGANBAYAN Sheriff Ed Urieta yesterday began preparations for the public auction of the controversial "Boracay mansion" despite a motion by lawyers of deposed President Joseph Estrada to quash the forfeiture order.

At the same time, the Land Registration Authority ordered the Quezon City government to relinquish its title to the property.

"We have not received an order from the court stopping us from implementing the writ of execution so we will push through with the public bidding of the Boracay mansion," Urieta told the INQUIRER over the phone.

But the now-dilapidated Boracay mansion, one of four assets covered by the court's writ of execution, still managed to surprise: There are actually two titles covering the property.

The bigger chunk of the property, covering 5,200 square meters, was titled in the name of the Quezon City government in 2005 after its alleged owners—St. Peter's Holdings Inc.—failed to settle P1.7 million in land taxes.

Yesterday, Quezon City treasurer Victor Endriga told the INQUIRER he was surprised to learn the 7,200-sq m property, at 10th and 11th Streets, Barangay Mariana, New Manila, was actually two adjoining properties with separate titles.

The smaller 2,000-sq m portion was still titled to St. Peter's Holdings.

Endriga said he only found this out recently when the smaller portion, valued at P23.6 million, was included in the list of properties scheduled for auction on Dec. 13. The city treasurer immediately delisted the property to avoid further conflict with the Sandiganbayan. *Jocelyn R. Uy and Jeannette I. Andrade*

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 9 ISSUE, a front-page story—"She saved the last dance for him"—misstated the official position that Rene Saguisag held in the administration of Corazon Aquino. Saguisag was President Aquino's spokesperson—not her chief legal counsel.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 10 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Mariannet burial today; Church in dilemma"—misstated the Web address of a Catholic news provider. The Web address is www.zenit.org—not www.zenith.org.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, another front-page article—"Rene recovering but still in the dark on wife's fate"—misstated the elective position that Ricky Recto once held. Recto is a former vice governor—not former representative—of Batangas.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

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OPINION

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All sound and fury

THIS IS ONE WAR WE DON'T WANT TO END RIGHT away. And it is not just because it is always fun to watch prominent politicians go at each other's throat, but because the nation could benefit a lot from the revelations they might make in an extended exchange of words.

EDITORIAL

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile on Thursday last week accused Speaker Jose de Venecia of lobbying for the $550-million North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) project. Enrile recalled that after he had delivered a privilege speech in 2005 to denounce the project, the Speaker asked for a private meeting during which the latter asked the senator "not to rock the boat." The contract for the project was overpriced and ridden with onerous conditions, particularly one that would allow China to take "all the monies of the Republic abroad" in case of default on the payment of the loan used to finance the project, he said.

Earlier Enrile accused the Speaker of also lobbying for the award of a contract to establish the National Broadband Network project to Amsterdam Holdings Inc., a company owned by De Venecia's son, Jose III. The government decided to give the project to the Chinese firm, ZTE Corp., but was forced to cancel it after the younger De Venecia charged that the contract was overpriced and linked First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and former Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos to alleged kickbacks and payoffs.

De Venecia admitted that he had met with Enrile on the NorthRail project, but added that everything he did was "above-board." He urged Enrile to act like a statesman and stop making "these unfair accusations," saying the NorthRail project was "not a ZTE." He also questioned why Enrile was raising the issue in the wake of the ZTE scandal and said this was "a form of retaliation" for the damaging testimony his son made before the Senate.

All this only made Enrile angrier. Referring to De Venecia's call for a "moral revolution" to put an end to corruption in government, Enrile said: "I am furious at hypocrites, those who pretend to be what they are not. He is a *bolero*, but he cannot make a fool out of me." Then he went on to hurl more threats: "Tell the Speaker not to badmouth me... I know more things about him, especially since 1995, and if I am forced to reveal them, I don't know where he will pick himself up from. I know his true character."

Such threats and counter-threats open some very interesting possibilities, not the least of which is that the public may finally know the truth behind some of the biggest scandals plaguing the Arroyo administration. If Enrile delivers, then the public might know better how the government entered into a contract with China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. to build a railways system costing P880 million per kilometer, and who earned how much from what then Senate President Franklin Drilon called "a colossal corrupt deal." The public might also know how deeply involved the Speaker was in his son's projects with the government, including the aborted NBN deal.

On the other hand, there is a possibility that De Venecia would give tit for tat for what he deems to be the administration's retaliation for his son's explosive revelations on the NBN project. He may have friends who know more about the deal and will help flesh out the story behind what now appears to be a criminal conspiracy to siphon off billions of pesos from an unnecessary project. Or if sufficiently provoked, he may be able to muster enough supporters among his allies to send an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Senate, where every sordid detail of the conspiracy could be dissected.

But if a bureaucrat like former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri can hem and haw on the President's role in the NBN contract, can these two politicians be expected to reveal the whole truth behind these scandalous transactions? Enrile's warning to De Venecia against badmouthing him are not the words of a reformer who is ready to expose wrongdoing but of a politician who is willing to cut a deal: You shut up on the NBN, and I clam up on the same case, the NorthRail project, and your other shenanigans. Now with Malacañang signaling its concern over the word war, it could soon be a done deal. And the Filipino will again have to search elsewhere for the truth that is being sacrificed in the bargain.

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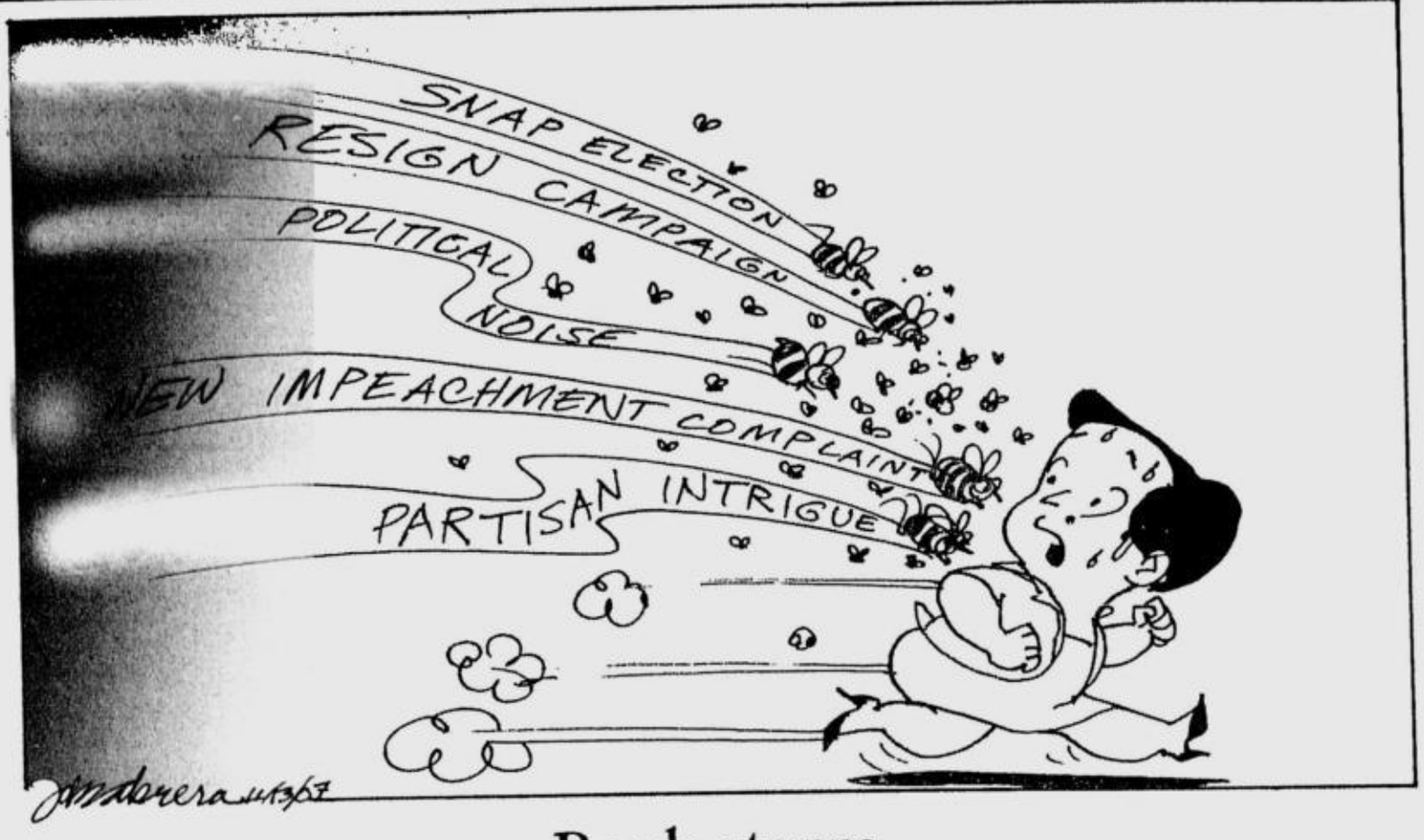

Book storm

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

CHINA BLEW ITS TOP OVER THE WEEKEND. Beijing's pique didn't stem from the flabby US dollar sapping the value of the $819 billion it has stashed. Neither did the unwanted embrace by Burma's paranoid junta irk. The fury swirled around a book—the Bible.

"China's religious affairs authorities and Olympic organizers have not banned the bible," an irritated Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao snapped at a hastily-called press conference.

His denial scuppered a report, by the Italian newspaper La Gazzetta dello Sport, that Beijing would prohibit the "carrying (of) any kind of religious symbol at Olympic facilities." The "Bible ban" story exploded on the evening news and triggered worldwide Net exchanges.

The International Olympic Committee confirmed Beijing's denial, Associated Press reported: "Religious services will be available in the Olympic Village."

Li Zhanjun, Beijing Olympics media center director weighed in: "Religious texts, like the bible and qu'ran, should be available."

"Beijing won't stand for Olympics trifling. It is spending 141 billion yuans (US$18 billion) to host the 2008 Games in buffing up the image of a dominant power. And that does not include bills for new satellite cities and transport links. Government is leery about the Athens Games underbudgeting," Moscow's Novosti news agency reports. "The Chinese Olympics promises to be the most expensive sports event in human history."

Beijing is adamant nothing tars this build-up. But that objective has also become a magnet "for groups wishing to put pressure on China on everything: from Tibet to Beijing's support of Myanmar's junta," the Guardian reports. This pressure ratchets up as the opening day nears.

Other than the fact that it has been translated into more than 2,300 languages and dialects, what is it about the Bible that raises hackles?

Saudi Arabia, for example, bans it, even within homes. Burma prohibits its translation. In 2003, protests by Malaysian Christians led Kuala Lumpur to junk a ban on bibles, published in the dialect of the Ibans of Borneo. Thailand, in contrast, has a tradition of tolerance towards all faiths.

"Most people are bothered by those passages in (the Bible) that they cannot understand," Mark Twain wisecracked. "The passages that trouble me most are those that I do understand."

Wordsmiths tell us that the word "bible" comes from the Latin biblia. "The Christian scripture was referred to, in Greek, as Ta Biblia as early as 223. The Old Testament is a collection of books written prior to the life of Jesus. The New Testament relates the life and teachings of Jesus, letters of Paul and other disciples to the early Church, and includes the Book of Revelation.

"The Bible is literature, not dogma," the philosopher George Santayana explains. Some from Ecclesiastes have become part of daily discourse. "For everything there is a season .... A time to be born and a time to die..." Other lines make readers catch their breath. "Entreat me not to leave you," Ruth tells Naomi. "For where you go, I will go. And where you lodge, I shall lodge. Your people shall be my people. And your God my God." And Psalm 23 has consoled generations: "Even though I walk through the valley of darkness, I will fear no evil. For you are with me."

Mahatma Ghandi recalled how reading the Beatitudes shaped his outlook of liberation by peaceful means. Indeed, the Bible offers norms, like the 10 Commandments which have been watered down to "10 Suggestions" in today's society. "Say what you will about the Ten Commandments," editor H. L. Mencken wrote. "You always come back to the pleasant fact that there are only 10 of them."

Beijing won't fret if all Olympic athletes, even visitors waved bibles. The concern stems from "more than 100 million religious adherents" in China. A February 2007 survey, by Shangai researchers, concluded: "31.4 percent of Chinese citizens ages 16 and over, or 300 million persons, are religious."

"This is approximately three times the official figure reported by the Government in April 2005," says the 2007 International Religious Freedom Report, submitted by State Department to the US Congress. "Approximately 40 million citizens identify themselves as Christians and 200 million identify themselves as Buddhist, Taoist, etc."

"Increasing interest in Christianity resulted in a corresponding increase in the demand for bibles," the report adds. Unregistered church members find supply and distribution, particularly in rural areas, lagging behind leapfrogging demand.

In China today, you can buy bibles and sacred texts of other faiths at bookstores and in most "officially recognized churches." But government sits astride all printing presses. Religious tracts, published without authorization, including bibles and korans, may be confiscated and, publishing houses maybe padlocked. Bootleg publishing brings on stiff fines and jail terms.

"Individuals cannot order bibles directly from publishing houses." Bulk purchases of bibles "could bring unfavorable attention to the purchaser." Customs officials monitor for the "smuggling" of bibles and other religious materials into the country.

Is this concern exaggerated? Our experience is most of us don't even dust off bibles. Otherwise, we'd discover what the Galilean meant when he said: "Everyone who listens to my words, and acts on them, will be like the wise man who built his house on rock. The rains fell and the winds blew. But the house stood because it was built on rock."

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Corruption kills

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AT THE TIME THE NEWS ABOUT MARIAnette Amper taking her own life appeared on our front page, another item appeared there and more prominently. It was our headline story, "Senate probes cash gifts." Alongside that story was the accompanying piece, "Palace admits cash doles from Kampi."

The two latter stories told the tale that money had flowed in Malacañang during a meeting of local officials some weeks ago and but that Malacañang would insist GMA knew nothing about it. How exactly money of such staggering sums could change hands at the Palace without the self-appointed queen knowing it—suggesting at the very least incompetence of impeachable proportions—Malacañang would not say. What is known, based on the admission by some recipients themselves, is that the local officials received anywhere from P200,000 to P500,000. (Those who declared the lower figure probably did not want to part with a bigger *balato* to friends and kin.) What is known, based on estimates, is that the payoffs amounted to around P120 million.

While this was going on, while hundreds of thousands of pesos were wafting down like leaves from trees in fall in the spacious Palace grounds, with no one particularly caring to claim being the source or recipient of this plenitude, there was this 11-year-old kid in the pit of Davao who wanted to go to school but could not because she had no fare, no bag, and no money to buy the most basic school supplies. Indeed, who wanted to go to school but could not because she had to help her mother wash clothes for other people to put food on their table. There was this 11-year-old girl who wanted a little bit more for her parents and siblings, if not for herself, and finding only a cold world that offered no light, no comfort, no hope; indeed finding only a deaf world that offered no help, no way out, no exit, she decided to turn her back on it.

If your blood doesn't boil at this, you ought to throw yourself off the nearest building, the higher the better just to be sure. Though that would be redundant—you're already dead.

I said it yesterday: I can only hope Manette's death has given life to this country, if only by rousing it from its deathly, and deadly, stupor of being fed rottenness and stench again and again, and not being able to see or hear or smell or taste it. No, of being nicked by a knife in various parts of the body again and again, deeper and deeper each time, and not being able to feel it. Maybe this salt rubbed on very fresh wound should help. If it can bring a yelp from us, it will have done its trick.

The two stories put side by side—the suicide of an 11-year-old from desperation and the homicide of the nation by public officials from corruption—do not just add new dimensions in the meaning of the term "social volcano." Though they do a magnificent job of it: You won't find a starker contrast between the opulence of the rich and infamous and the wretchedness of the poor and anonymous in this country than in those two images.

But they offer more than that, they offer a glimpse into the true meaning, or essence, of corruption. They show us in the most poignant and horrific way what makes corruption the cruelest, ugliest, vilest thing there is. That is: Corruption takes away. Corruption kills.

The two stories do not just offer a contrast, they offer a cause-and-effect. The hand that tied the rope around the beam that Manette used to hang herself might have been hers, but there were other hands there too. Hands that pushed her to her scaffold when her feet faltered and her hands wavered for a moment, hands that tightened the noose around her neck when she wondered if light might not peep through a crack in her dark hole after all, hands that pushed her to the void below till a sudden snap of her neck broke her fall and ended all thought and care and speculation forever.

They were the hands of everyone involved in that scam in Malacañang. They were the hands of everyone involved in all the scams that have befallen this country with the violence and regularity of the super storms.

We tend to think of corruption as something abstract, particularly where it involves mind-boggling sums. We tend to think of it as a game that public officials and businessmen and even bishops play, a game that has to do with the division of spoils and the wars that go on among and between them over it, a game that has little to do with us.

Wrong. Corruption has everything to do with us. Corruption takes away from us. It is the classroom that should be there but is not there, which is why teachers have to hold class under the tree (if there's one), home not just to sun and falling fruit but to wind and rain. It is the pencil and paper, the school bag, the crayons that should be in the hands of every seven-year-old but are not there, which is why the Manettes of this world are not in school, afraid of being berated by their teachers, afraid of being derided by their peers. It is the very time that every 11-year-old should have with which to play and dream of Enchanted Kingdoms, but is not there because the kid has to drag her carcass to clean other people's mess and be grateful only for the pause that sleep brings.

Corruption is grabbing the scraps of food from the table of the hungry. It is seizing the jeepney money of a Grade II kid forcing him to walk in frayed rubber slippers, in the smoldering heat or raging flood, to school. It is pushing an 11-year-old up the ladder of a scaffold, looping the rope around her neck, and kicking her to the void below to the almost inaudible sound of a fragile neck snapping. Corruption is not just something they do to themselves, it is something they do to us.

Corruption takes away. Corruption kills.

Economic cluster should explain NorthRail project

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WE FLEW TO HONOLULU VIA PAL FOR A FEW days to attend the wedding of a Cunanan niece. Catching up on back issues, I realized I missed a lot of developments. I feel sorry that controversy seems to have surfaced anew with regard to the NorthRail project. I have supported this project since it was being negotiated, for I have always believed that no country can industrialize and develop without an efficient railway system. In our case, this project complements the development of our agri-business mega-region in the north. Having traveled around the world, including in Third World countries, often by rail, I always feel ashamed every time my vehicle is stopped at the Buendia Avenue crossing in Makati to allow those decrepit trains to pass (even Cambodia has better trains). I also felt happy about the prospect of decongesting Metro Manila by having modern trains bring people to work in the metropolis and transport them back to the suburbs.

* * *

I feel that Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's attack against Speaker Jose de Venecia on this project is off-target. Shouldn't it be the executive team composed of Neda, finance and transportation officials who should be held responsible for any alleged wrongdoing. Led by then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, they signed the deal with the Chinese Eximbank. The role of JDV, who had developed close ties with Chinese officials over the years, was to convince them to get into the NorthRail project—part of his vision of railways in the major land masses such as northern and southern Luzon, Panay and Northern Mindanao.

Why isn't the Cabinet's economic cluster explaining this?

* * *

The 62-km project, the Chinese government's first railway project in Southeast Asia and funded with a soft loan over a 20-year period, has been attacked with regularity over the past few years. I recall that the Senate under Franklin Drilon held hearings in late 2004 on the eviction of informal settlers on the railroad tracks and the alleged overpricing of the project, but nothing seems to have come out of it. If there were allegations of overpricing, the time to settle the issue was then. The controversy's resurrection now leads some people to suspect that politics has to do with it.

* * *

JDV points out that the negotiations involved, on the Chinese side, two presidents, two prime ministers, two speakers of parliament and three ambassadors; and on the RP side, the economic team, three ambassadors and Foreign Secretaries Delia Albert and Alberto Romulo. The inference is, how could anything so laboriously negotiated go wrong? It's a crime that all the criticisms and queries should come not at the beginning, but when Vice President Noli de Castro had already relocated the 44,000 informal settler families and work on Phase I is under way.

From the way we seem to be shooting down every foreign contract, are we heading for isolationism? Would any country take us seriously? The Jpepa only now being ripped apart when it is in the signing stage. Other countries are fighting for foreign investments, but our politics is driving them away.

* * *

INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila observed yesterday that there's no critical mass to express outrage against GMA. There are good reasons for this lack. In the first place, some of the civil society leaders marching up and down in Makati have credibility problems themselves, having been associated with Code NGO or left office with unsettled accountabilities. Others nurse spurned ambitions. A key issue today is the so-called Palace payola. But this can't rile up enough people because everyone knows it has been the practice of various administrations to give out funds to supporters for various causes, be they politicos, clergymen or NGO leaders. In fact, there were rumors about payola being given to some senators while the Visiting Forces Agreement was being deliberated upon or to members of Congress to pass the long-delayed Epira Law.

This is not to say that doles ought to be tolerated, but there's a lot of hypocrisy about this issue. In the first place, Congress has the power to pass, reject or cut the budget submitted by the executive. Why do its members put so much funds in the hands of the President?

* * *

The nation's conscience was racked by the recent suicide of 12-year-old Mariannet Amper in Davao. I have a few thoughts on this tragedy. One is that everyone has to share the blame: sure, some politicians squander public funds, but many of us are too comfortable and uncaring. At the French Embassy, I chatted with Ateneo's Fr. Pasquale Giordano who noted the rise in corporate social responsibility among companies; but on the same occasion, Fr. Jean-Francois Thomas, whose heroic efforts to rescue Manila's impoverished children from the streets won him the French Legion of Honor, opined that not enough help is being exerted by those who can afford it. I agree.

But there's also the salient point that Mariannet's suicide underscored and which Fr. Pierre Tritz, founder of Erda Foundation, realized long ago: while tuition is free in public elementary and high schools, transportation, uniforms, school materials and project expenses are difficult for poor families to meet. Erda annually supports about 30,000 poor public school students across the country and this has helped sustain them in school. Erda Technical Vocational High School extends free five-year education and technical training to 600 poor high school students in Manila, enabling them to seek employment right after graduation. About 190 students, however, are still without scholarships, and readers might wish to call administrator Wilhelmina Martinez about supporting them at 564-2608, 564-1856 and 564-1774.

Test for women legislators

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE ARE VERY GOOD PROSPECTS FOR THE passage of women- and gender-related bills through the legislature in this 14th Congress, that is, if we go by the number of women in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

There are now four women sitting in the Senate, and a record number of 56 women out of 236 members of the House. While still quite away from the "magic number" of 30 percent, which the United Nations says is the minimum proportion needed to bring women out of a "token" status in governance, the growing number of women in the legislature could yet make a difference. That is, if the women legislators take the initiative to support, promote and champion laws addressing gender concerns.

The question at this point is not so much the number of women in government, but the quality of these women, whether they see themselves as representatives not just of their district or sector, but of their gender, and of the movement to liberate women—and men—from the stereotypes and forms of discrimination that have kept us boxed in and unable to fulfill our potential.

Women legislators will have a chance to prove their mettle in the coming debates over the passage of a proposed "Magna Carta of Women," The "Magna Carta" is envisioned as an omnibus law that would "eliminate discrimination against women and recognize, respect, protect, fulfill and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, particularly the poor and marginalized."

It is based in part on the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cedaw), an international covenant that the Philippines ratified 26 years ago. And yet, despite the more than two decades that have passed since its ratification, there remain many laws, as well as policies and social and cultural practices, that discriminate and disadvantage women. In fact, there is no legal, official definition of "discrimination" in our laws.

Among the examples of discriminatory laws are the distinction between "adultery" for women and "concubinage" for men as grounds for legal separation; the treatment of sex workers as petty criminals under the anti-vagrancy provision in the penal code (in fact, the very definition of prostitution itself); and provisions in the Code of Muslim Personal Laws which permit the marriage of girls under 18 years, polygamy and arranged marriages; and the policy of some schools dismissing female students (but not their partners) who get pregnant while still single.

These defects the "Magna Carta" seeks to correct, while at the same time pursuing measures aimed at recognizing the role of women in nation-building, including greater protection against violence; participation and representation in governance; access to sources of training, credit and capital; challenging derogatory and stereotypical images of women in the media; and economic and social rights of marginalized women.

The proposed "Magna Carta" will also strengthen the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), to be renamed the Philippine Commission on Women, which will be the overall monitoring body of the Magna Carta; even as it provides "ombud" power to the Commission on Human Rights.

* * *

THE GOOD news is that the proposed "Magna Carta of Women" has found sponsors in both legislative chambers. In the Senate, both Senate President Manuel Villar and Sen. Pia Cayetano have filed their own versions of the "Magna Carta" bill. In the House, Zamboanga Rep. Beng Climaco and Aurora Rep. Sonny Angara have both filed early versions of the "Magna Carta," while deputy majority floor leader Iloilo Rep. Janet Guarin has reportedly agreed "in principle" to file another version.

In the last Congress, the Committee on Women was able to report out a consolidated version of the "Magna Carta," but the Senate version did not even reach the level of committee deliberations. Let's hope the "Magna Carta" moves much more speedily this time.

While based largely on Cedaw, the proposed "Magna Carta" is also the fruit of numerous consultations conducted around the country, with multi-sectoral representation of women, who also gave their comments, observations and inputs on the draft law.

Yesterday, I was in Bacolod as part of a forum on "Making CEDAW a Reality in Filipino Women's Lives through the Magna Carta of Women." During the open forum, women from all over Negros Occidental and even Iloilo gave additional inputs, including the need for "public attorneys" to assist survivors of gender-based crimes in the filing of cases; the need to include gender mainstreaming in the "synchronized planning guidelines" being worked out by Neda and the DILG; and the mention of rights of women and children articulated in the various peace agreements.

* * *

PILIPINA, the national women's group which I chair, is taking the proposed "Magna Carta" around the country to inform more women about this initiative and drum up support for its passage. Judging from previous attempts to pass gender-related legislation, we are in for a long, complicated and difficult process.

There is also a petition making the rounds, which will be submitted to the leadership of both the Senate and the House, calling for the immediate passage of the Magna Carta.

Let me close by quoting a passage which opens the Villar bill, attributed to former Sen. Helena Z. Benitez, one of the "icons" of the Philippines' women's movement: "The woman, whose womb is the first home of the human race, must be respected in the next environment which is called the family, which is housed in a home for many reasons—closeness, protection from elements, and some form of stability, and eventually, a community, and they become a settlement."

Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

"I AM FURIOUS AT HYPOCRITES, THOSE WHO pretend to be someone they are not," Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said the other day. The confessed fake ambush victim (1972) and election fraud perpetrator (1986) was taking aim at Speaker Jose de Venecia (2005), but who knows? Perhaps, despite a public airing of sins during Edsa II, he was yet again in self-critical mode.

Incidentally, those who think that Enrile's latest broadside at De Venecia (when it comes to the NorthRail project, he certainly seems to have plenty of ammunition) is a ratcheting of their word war should realize that, technically, a ratchet moves in only one direction. In other words, the movement is irreversible. In the buyer's market that is Philippine elite politics, however, the hidden hand is never too far from the reverse gear.

* * *

The American Studies Association of the Philippines is marking the centenary of the inauguration of the first Philippine Assembly (in 1907, local politicos like Sergio Osmeña and Manuel Quezon began their transition from periphery to center) with a national conference devoted to exploring American influence on Philippine democracy.

My own participation in this Saturday's assembly of scholars at the National Computer Center in UP Diliman involves yet another source of influence of American origin (but immediately, intricately, international in character): the Internet. The question, to borrow Woodrow Wilson's World War I slogan, is: Has new media made the world safe for democracy?

But this is a mere footnote to the conference. I look forward to wrestling with the main text, courtesy of colleagues Raul Pangalangan and Manolo Quezon, and especially Mary Ann Marchadesch, Helen Yu-Rivera, Olivia Caoili and Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio.

* * *

American conservative Fr. Robert Siroco, cofounder of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, was in town last week, as a guest of the decidedly liberal Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany. In part out of deep curiosity about this unusual partnership (the visit seemed like something, say, the Hanns Seidel Foundation would fund), I wangled an invitation to the screening of "The Call of the Entrepreneur," an Acton Media documentary based on Siroco's book, "Entrepreneurship as a Vocation."

I needn't have wondered. What the two have in common is an abiding faith in the primacy of freedom.

The movie, to be completely candid, wasn't an entirely satisfactory defense of the entrepreneurial vocation, at least in my view. In fact, I found it too defensive. While polished and professional, as a questioner at the open forum that followed noted with precision, the documentary was flawed moviemaking; I found the second of three acts weak and unnecessarily discursive.

Don't get me wrong. I think the hour-long documentary is essential viewing, for Filipino Catholic faithful who care about the consequences of their political commitment, and especially for Filipino Catholic clergy who believe that, as ex-senator Vicente Paterno recalled a bishop's words of cloistered wisdom before the forum, "businessmen are evil."

But the movie's failure to recognize that the seeds of alienation and exploitation are to be found in the same fecund soil of capitalism undermines the movie's message. In celebrating the entrepreneur's vocation, "The Call of the Entrepreneur" scants the fertile deposit of Catholic social teaching; in defending an admirable calling, it opened itself to the possibility of new accusations. For some reason, I was reminded of an Irving Berlin ditty made popular during Woodrow Wilson's war: "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

* * *

What do I mean, exactly? During the open forum, Siroco quoted (inevitably) from "Centesimus Annus," Pope John Paul II's historic encyclical of 1991. (His biographer, George Weigel, asserts that in its comparison of economic and political systems, the Pope described "the moral architecture of a free society"—a bold but entirely accurate assertion.) "Centisimus Annus," Siroco said, had recognized that entrepreneurship "throws practical light on a truth about the person." That it did, and more. In effect, the encyclical recognized that the creation of wealth was a good thing.

But in the movie, the common image of the businessman as greedy, as one in business merely for the money, is denied, correctly, through the stirring example of wealth creators like Jimmy Lai and, incorrectly, through the specious argument that greed is not the monopoly of businessmen. True, but as the "Centisimus Annus" itself reminds us (in the very next section to the passage Siroco quoted): "In spite of the great changes which have taken place in the more advanced societies, the human inadequacies of capitalism and the resulting domination of things over people are far from disappearing."

It would have strengthened the movie if these inadequacies of capitalism—surmountable, as experience happily tells us—had been given their due.

* * *

'PROVINCIAL' NEWS. I understand that the Philippine province of the Society of Jesus will be represented at the order's 35th General Congregation in Rome in January by Danny Huang, the provincial, and Ben Nebres and Jojo Magadia as electors. Topping the agenda of the extraordinary convocation is the election of a new Superior General. Meanwhile, the Philippine province of the Order of Discalced Carmelites (which includes Vietnam, if I am not mistaken) has elected a new provincial. Come March, Chito Reyes will succeed Jun-Jun Agruda, in my view the country's best homilist.

* * *

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Crazy thoughts

YOUNG BLOOD

Jenny Marasigan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WE WERE CLASSMATES LAST SUMMER. I'M PRETTY SURE he didn't know me. I didn't know him either. He was just a familiar face; the cute guy who was always late for class. I got to notice him because I always sat near the door. No, I don't have a crush on him. I saw him with a girl once—probably his girlfriend. Having him as my boyfriend would be pointless, I thought.

Summer class passed swiftly. I had two weeks of vacation to spend before the first semester. I had assumed I had already forgotten the familiar face. I enjoyed so much of my vacation—enough reason for me not to think of him.

The regular semester came. Most that I was to take up were major subjects, except for Physics (both lecture and laboratory). So I felt reassured that I would be seeing the same group of people every day; people who had been my classmates in the previous years. Good for me. I prefer dealing with people whom I already know than having to know strangers and work with them on projects.

Physics laboratory was scheduled once a week. In the first session, there were less than 10 people in the room. How I wished the class would be dissolved so that I could change my schedule and enroll in the same class where my friends were. Nevertheless, our instructor had already divided us into groups—a permanent arrangement for the whole semester. I didn't know anyone in the class. Great!

I waited for the announcement; the following week came and still there was no announcement; the class was not going to be dissolved. So I had no choice, to our room I went, and when I opened the door, lo and behold, there he was! Sitting with my groupmates was the familiar face the previous summer. I joined them but didn't say a word to him.

Having him in the same class and as a groupmate didn't make any impact on me. There was no quickening of the heartbeat, no trembling of the hands, and definitely no awkward feelings, no typical signs that I was falling for him.

I know I am a little old to talk about crushes. But what can I do? I am a hopeless romantic. I am a no-boyfriend-since-birth girl. No one has even tried courting me and I only know of a few guys who like me. Most of the guys I liked never felt the same for me. Maybe it's because I am one of the boys, a *barkada* to them. Girly clothes and makeups are not for me. I am so contented with my shirt, pants and Chuck Taylors.

Okay, my point is I didn't have a "thing" for him. But actually, I couldn't help looking at his cute face. His scent of mixed cologne, car air freshener and, maybe, cigarette smoke were quite appealing. (I admit he is attractive. He is neither tall nor the macho-type.) It didn't matter anyway. We were just groupmates. That was it. My only concern was that we finished on time our activities and come up with a project before the semester ended.

Weeks passed. I didn't get to know him personally. We only talked about what to do, what the answers in the worksheet should be, whether we were doing the right thing. In short, the only topic we talked about was our subject. Although we sometimes shared some laugh when we did mischief during activities, we didn't really get close.

On the day we had to present our report on our project, I saw him with a girl again. I thought it was the same girl I saw last summer. But the thing was, it didn't affect me in any way. So what if he had a girlfriend? I didn't feel any jealousy or sadness. My point was: I really didn't have a thing for him. And that was for sure.

After our class that day, he left ahead of us. (But that was what he always did.) When I came out of the building minutes later, I saw his car still parked outside. Maybe he was waiting for someone, I thought. When I passed near his car, he opened the window and asked where I was going. He offered me a ride and, of course, I didn't refuse. Actually, I was waiting for that moment to come. And that moment brought me to cloud nine.

The car ride took less than 10 minutes. But that very short span of time was one of the best times of my life. We talked, but at first it was still about our subject. I couldn't ask personal questions because I was afraid he might get the impression that I was interested in him. But he told me things about him. I had a feeling that would be the start of getting to know him and of a real good friendship.

When I stepped out of the car, that was when the thoughts came in a flood. Why did he offer me a ride? Does he want to know me and get close to me? Does he like me? But it can't be. I must not forget the possibility that he already has a girlfriend. Why? Was he just being a gentleman? I will never know...

Night came and I still couldn't get him out of my head. I had to study but I couldn't concentrate because the thought of him and what happened that afternoon kept coming back to me. Visions of the two of us inside his car kept flashing in my mind. I knew I was wasting my time but I couldn't help imagining things about us: What if he admits that he likes me? I don't want to be the reason, if ever, behind his breakup with his girl. But I really want him. Now I am admitting that I do have a thing for him. I was just ignoring it because I felt there was no chance of satisfying that feeling. I hate these crazy thoughts...

I couldn't wait to get to our next class session. He was in my mind the whole week. I was expecting another moment with him. The day came. But the only thing that transpired between us were an exchange of hand waves and flicked eyebrows as a sign of recognition. We didn't talk because I was busy reviewing for an exam later that afternoon and I also did not know what to say. I could hardly look straight into his eyes. He left very early and I was not expecting him to be there when I came out.

While walking, I put on my mp3 player and played "Sorrow" at the loudest volume. I didn't want to hear anything or talk to anyone. I realized that everything I was thinking would never happen: I was just his groupmate. I was wrapped in a blanket of sorrow. Why do I have to go through this, I asked myself almost in pity. I wished that last week's "encounter" hadn't happened. Being with him gave me an opening to unleash and admit my feelings. And suddenly the fact that he had a girlfriend was killing me. I wanted to cry but no tears fell from my eyes.

Another flood of thoughts came: What's the point of our paths crossing? Is it only to torment me? I guess he is not the right person for me, but I am getting tired of waiting. Why is life unfair? I want him so much but I can never have him. I am crying not because of him, but because of the thought that I still can't have someone. I have come across this feeling before and I guess I should be getting used to it.

Jenny Marasigan, 20, is a BS Chemistry student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

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Estrada outed as fake symbol

IF SOMETHING GOOD HAS COME out of Joseph Estrada's pardon, that is the fact that the "Oust Gloria Movement" has at last been purged of a fake symbol pretentiously representing the masses and the idea of good government.

Prior to the pardon, several known oppositionists, in a make-believe, propped up Erap as the rallying figure against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's evil regime. They had hoped that Erap's following among the masses, or what remains of it, would strengthen the fledging anti-GMA forces.

This country is hungry for a modern-day martyr. And it was prepared to create one, though his only claim to suffering was to be confined in a private mansion where he could feast on sumptuous food; and indeed he played hero to the outside world.

But Erap has shown his true colors. Trembling at the thought of even one night in Muntinlupa, he sought executive clemency and now sings a different tune—he isn't joining the mounting call for GMA's resignation.

His turnaround only confirmed what has been clear from the very beginning. Erap can never be a driving force against corruption for he himself is corrupt. He cannot usher in a new type of governance for he is an old *trapo*. He cannot rail against criminals in public office for he has been a proven plunderer.

In other words, Erap is no different from GMA. And with Erap and GMA together, like old school chums suddenly finding love, this awful truth has become incontestable.

In a sense, this will prove beneficial to advocates of real change. They will no longer be burdened by a gaping contradiction, the kind we witness in the person of Teofisto Guingona, who batted for Erap's freedom several years after his stirring "I Accuse" speech.

For a time, GMA's strategy of identifying all the progressive elements seeking her ouster with Erap's camp was effective in keeping them away from the mass actions. But with Erap now under her leash, GMA has deprived herself of a convenient bogeyman. This time, she cannot blame her political rival for the widespread hatred of her regime. She can no longer make a sweeping charge that everyone who opposes her is an "Erap restorationist." She can no longer dismiss the brewing discontent as political bickering.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Ironically, GMA does not realize the double-edged sword she is dangling over the people's heads. The country must move on, she says. And indeed, the country is moving on, without Erap, in opposing her. The struggle will finally go beyond the irrational personality-centered politics of Erap's fanatics.

The pardon will pave the way for national unity, GMA further proclaims. And, indeed, the nation—strengthened after having been exorcised of the demon of a convicted plunderer who has gone over to GMA's side—is now united, more than ever, in seeking her ouster.

Among the anti-GMA forces, the chaff has been separated from the grain. Erap may have compromised, but not the nation.

—BUJON APOSTOL,
Philippine Union For Nationalist Liberation (Punyal),
nationalist22@gmail.com

FARMERS walk for a cause dear to them: land and justice. FILE PHOTO

Sumilao farmers hunger not only for food but justice

WE APPRECIATE JOEY GABIETA'S Nov. 2 article on the Higaonon marchers from Sumilao, Bukidnon, as well as the tremendous help and support they received from groups and individuals in Eastern Visayas, such as Palo Archbishop Jose Palma.

But more than their physical pain and their need for basic needs like food, medicine and a place to sleep, the Sumilao farmers are in dire need of justice. On Oct. 10, 2007, the Office of the President ruled that they have no legal standing to sue as they are "merely recommendee beneficiaries." (The decision was supposedly based on Fortich vs Corona. The farmers had filed a petition for the revocation of the conversion order and for the immediate coverage of their land in Sumilao under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.)

But clearly, they are an indispensable party in the case; after all, they will directly benefit or suffer from any decision on it. More importantly, they are saying precisely that the Supreme Court decision affirming the application for conversion was not implemented. The 144-hectare converted land remains agricultural a decade after the decision. Norberto Quisumbing failed to industrialize and develop the land as he had promised. Worse, he sold the land to San Miguel Corporation, which wants to put up a piggery in the richly irrigated land.

The Visayas leg of the "Walk for Sumilao Land, Walk for Justice" has not been easy. The weather is either very hot and humid or rainy. There are security risks too, as the marchers are prone to be used by groups in conflict with each other. Almost every day, two to four farmers faint and need to be lifted by fellow marchers in a makeshift carrier made of *malong* tied to bamboo poles.

There were occasions where an ambulance had to be requested to bring marchers to a hospital. They are physically tired and they need accommodation, medicine, water, and food on a daily basis. They chose to walk from Sumilao to Manila for their cause: the re-distribution under the CARP of the 144-hectare land in question (which remains prime agricultural land).

The farmers are only asking that the laws be properly and truthfully implemented. Even the local offices of the Department of Agrarian Reform in the region where the land is located have already said that there had been no development in the area and that the only option left for the government is to immediately revoke the conversion order granted to Quisumbing and to put the land in question under CARP coverage.

More than their physical hunger is their hunger for land and their hunger for justice. This is what they justly deserve and this is how laws like CARP should be implemented.

—ARLENE J. BAG-AO,
counsel of the Sumilao farmers and executive director of Balaod Mindanaw and JANE D. CAPACIO, coordinator, Visayas "Walk for Land, Walk for Justice" and executive director, Kaisahan Inc.

Of hardened stomachs and barf bags

THIS REFERS TO THE EDITORIAL "Triumph of the ex-con." (INQUIRER, 10/26/07) It stated: "And what do we get in return for this Faustian bargain? An empty bag, where the rule of law used to be."

Correction. What we got is a "barf bag." The sight of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pardoning a "co-criminal" is undeniably something only the most hardened "stomach for perversity" could take without throwing up.

—MON SAGULLO,
ramonsagullo@yahoo.com

Gloria and Erap: Same feather

ANOTHER CRAP DECISION FROM the President. There's no more respect left in me for this sick administration.

In all these, it shows that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Joseph Estrada are just the same. Traitors! Oust GMA—now, now, now!

—VJ GONZAGA,
here@vjgonzaga.com

Spineless, unprincipled ex-actor

THAT JOSEPH ESTRADA SHAMElessly begged for mercy and acknowledged the magnanimity of the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo exposes him for the spineless, unprincipled and opportunistic movie actor that he really is.

After shouting to high heavens that Ms Arroyo's presidency was a fraud, he so readily embraced its legitimacy once he was faced with the cold reality of imprisonment. This hardly shows a nationalist fighting for the poor and the oppressed.

Certainly, he is not of the mold of nationalists Jejomar Binay and Rene Saguisag who fought the Marcos regime at great personal sacrifice. Estrada not only betrayed the masses whom he professes to champion and those who stuck with him. He insults them by claiming that he abandoned his convictions for the highest national interest.

Estrada reminds me of another opportunistic "fraud" who washes his hands after every failed coup and abandons those he made a pact with, until he finds another opportunity to pursue his burning personal ambition.

—JULIAN ROSEUS,
roseusjulian@yahoo.com

GSIS has limits on condoning loans

THE INQUIRER PUBLISHED LAST Oct. 25 a letter from Samuel J. Yap asking the Government Service Insurance System to reconsider the housing loan of Nelita Diocampo, who found it difficult to settle her obligations after the untimely death of her husband 23 years ago.

Yap said the GSIS merely skirted the issue of helping Mrs. Diocampo when the GSIS condoned the surcharges and restructured the payment of her loan, suggesting that the GSIS should condone the entire loan instead.

We hope Yap understands that no one—whether employee, executive, trustee, even the chair or the president and general manager of the GSIS—has the power to use the fund, unless this had to do with fulfilling its mandate of providing pension and life insurance benefits to its members.

The condonation and the restructuring plans are all the GSIS has in its power to help housing loan borrowers like Mrs. Diocampo. In her case, she was able to avail of not one, but two condonation programs—a rarity in both public and private financial sectors because, typically, borrowers can only avail themselves of such programs once.

We hope Yap does not take it against the GSIS if it fails to grant his request because doing so is not within its authority and is tantamount to misusing the money entrusted to the GSIS by its members.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

Unused textbooks an old problem

THE OCT. 12 EDITORIAL "LAME excuses" and the column of Neal H. Cruz regarding the "P329 million worth of textbooks, instructional materials, computers and information technology products lying idle and gathering mold in the storerooms of DepEd offices in 15 regions" were very timely and relevant but overdue.

Timely because of the exposé on the proposed Cyber Education project, which critics say does not really meet the very basic needs of our school system struggling to upgrade itself and improve the teaching-learning situation. Really the need of the hour, if we are to improve and enhance the quality of Philippine education, is to hire more teachers and provide basic textbooks, instructional materials, classrooms and such other facilities as blackboards, chairs and tables.

Relevant, because obtaining loans from foreign sources will burden our impoverished people some more because of misgovernance, graft and corruption.

Overdue, because this matter of instructional materials rotting and wasting in DepEd storerooms has been going on for a long time. Talking from my experience as a former public school supervisor, I can say that many, if not most, of the purchased instructional materials like textbooks and supplementary reading materials were not really needed for instruction as prescribed for the different grade levels. The DepEd officials concerned ordered and bought those materials not so much to use them as instructional aids but to get more commissions and kickbacks from the suppliers.

Another reason was the lack of close supervision on the part of the concerned principals, supervisors, superintendents, directors, undersecretaries and the secretary himself.

"Don't look at us" said the Department of Education. Passing the buck is the worst thing that can happen in management.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA,
information consultant,
Municipality of Pozorrubio, Pangasinan

Wanted: a good person to lead us

THE REASON WE FILIPINOS REmain apathetic to the shenanigans in our government is that we can't find one good person to lead us out of our miserable situation.

Noah encountered the same problem when God asked him to find a few God-fearing people, so He may have reason to spare their land from destruction. And so God caused the great deluge.

Maybe, we would be similarly doomed if we fail to find a leader acceptable to God and to the Filipino people.

—NARCISO T. ELEQUIN,
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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Maynilad report: leaking pipe finally found, fixed

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO VIRgilio C. Sagun's letter (INQUIRER, 10/27/07) regarding his complaint about the leaking pipe on Arellano Street, Barangay 732, Zone 80 at Singalong, Malate, Manila. We would like to inform him and the public that the leaking pipe has been repaired as of Oct. 24, 2007.

There was a delay in repairing the leak because our technical team had difficulty locating the leakage, which turned out to be along interior Arellano Street, not along main Arellano Street as initially reported. But immediately after the leak was found, Maynilad's South Manila Business Center coordinated with the barangay for the needed excavation permit and sent contractors to fix the pipe. Our team has also visited Sagun to give him an update on Maynilad's action regarding his complaint.

We thank Sagun and the INQUIRER for bringing this matter to our attention.

—JESUS S. MATUBIS JR.,
assistant vice president,
Corporate Affairs and Media Relations,
Maynilad Water Services Inc.,
MWSS Compound,
Katipunan Road, Balara, QC

How to choose election commissioners

COMMENTARY

Rene V. Sarmiento

COME FEB. 2, 2008, ACTING CHAIR RESURRECCION Z. Borra and Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason Jr. will be retiring after serving full terms of seven years. Supposedly joining them for retirement on that date is former Chair Benjamin S. Abalos Sr., who resigned on Oct. 1, 2007. With the vacancy left by retired Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain filled up by the ad interim appointment of former judge Moslemen T. Macarambon, there will be three vacancies in the Commission on Elections on Feb. 2.

The 1987 Constitution prescribes the qualifications for appointees to the Commission and they are: (a) natural-born citizen of the Philippines; (b) at the time of appointment, at least 35 years of age; (c) holder of college degree; (d) must not have been candidates for any elective position in the immediately preceding elections; (e) a majority of the commissioners, including the chair, shall be members of the Philippine Bar who have been engaged in the practice of law for at least 10 years.

Empowered to appoint the chair and the commissioners is the President of the Philippines whose appointees have to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments of the Congress of the Philippines as part of check and balance under the tripartite separation of powers. If appointment is given by the President while Congress is in recess, the appointment is in the nature of ad interim designation, subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments when Congress resumes session.

The Comelec, with or without elections, is a superbody. Under the 1987 Constitution, it enjoys executive, judicial and legislative functions. (Sec. 2, Article IX, 1987 Constitution) It has 11 additional powers and functions under the Omnibus Election Code (Batas Pambansa Blg. 881) intended to make it an effective enforcer and administrator of all laws relative to the conduct of elections. It has a total of 16 powers and functions under the Constitution and law.

It is these constitutional and statutory powers that make the Comelec an important and crucial factor in the holding of clean and credible elections, in the free choice of elective officials from the President up to barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials. An honest and independent Comelec, with no master but the Constitution and law, solely devoted to uphold the people's sovereign will, is beyond question essential in building the solid edifice of constitutional democracy and strengthening the people's trust in government.

Considering the Comelec's critical role in the democratic choice of our leaders from the national to the village levels, where should the chair and commissioners be drawn from? And how should they be chosen?

In Mozambique, nominees to the electoral management body (EMB) are in many cases eminent members of the community rather than members of the political parties which nominated them and meet the qualifications of nonpartisanship and independence. In Croatia, nominees are all judges or eminent legal practitioners. In Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Poland, Thailand and Ukraine, members of the EMBs are often eminent public figures renowned for political neutrality with expertise in fields such as law, public administration, political science or the media. The law in many of these countries provides that EMB members must not have been active in party politics in the recent past, and must not be a political party member while serving as a member of the EMB. In Cote d' Ivoire, the EMB is composed of judges, academics, civil society representatives and career public servants.

The process of appointment in some countries is participatory and transparent. In South Africa and Namibia, members of the EMBs are recruited through open advertisement; interested candidates may apply directly to be considered for appointment. In South Africa, they may also be nominated by the public. Applicants are reviewed and screened (through public interviews) by an independent body (for example, a judicial selection committee in Namibia and a committee of the legislature in the case of South Africa). The cases of short-listed candidates are submitted to the head of State for final appointment. In Burkina Faso and Guatemala, civil society organizations, academia or the legal profession play a key role in the EMB appointments.

In the Philippines, without departing from the long-observed constitutional practice of the President appointing the chair and the commissioners and subjecting the appointees to legislative confirmation, the process of appointment can be made transparent and participative. This can be done by the Search Committee of the Office of the President publicly announcing in print or broadcast that the nominations coming from various sectors and disciplines (preferably from the academe, education, management and IT sectors) are now open and the same can now be submitted to it. After the submission of names, the list will be publicized in the dailies for comment and reaction. This printing of names is the process being done for nominees to the judiciary and this was the same process that was followed for appointment to the Constitutional Commission of 1986 that drafted the 1987 Constitution. From this list and from the commentaries, the President can now make her appointments. If appointments by the President are objectionable, the public can still object by participating in the deliberations of the Commission on Appointments.

The President will have a living and lasting legacy to the people and to the Republic she has long served if she makes good appointments to the Comelec. May God be her guide and the common good be her polestar when she chooses the men and women with integrity, independence and impartiality for the Comelec. The Book of Proverbs (Proverbs 14:34) is instructive on exemplary and accountable governance when it tells us that "[V]irtue exalts a nation, but sin is a people's disgrace."

Rene V. Sarmiento is a Comelec commissioner.

WESTERN Police District Director Roberto Rosales holds up police artist's sketch of the gunman in Saturday night's killing of Comelec law department chief Alioden Dalaig in Ermita, Manila. REM ZAMORA

Fertilization of Sulu Sea opposed

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS yesterday condemned an Australian company's plan to dump hundreds of tons of fertilizer into Philippine waters as part of an experiment to combat climate change.

The groups, including Greenpeace and civil society organizations, called on the Philippine government to stop the experiment, known as "ocean fertilization."

"This is not a solution and is a dangerous diversion to the real solutions to address climate change," said Jasper Inventor, Greenpeace climate and energy campaigner.

"It is also extremely irresponsible to test a speculative and unproven method, which potentially has high impacts to the environment."

Sydney-based Ocean Nourishment Corp. is said to be planning to pump up to 1,000 tons of nitrogen-rich urea into the Sulu Sea, where it has already dumped one ton of the substance.

The company has said urea stimulates the growth of phytoplankton in the sea and can absorb large quantities of carbon dioxide—the main cause of global warning—from the atmosphere.

It also said the growth of more phytoplankton would help boost fishing stocks.

But Inventor said the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has noted that ocean fertilization "remains largely speculative" and "many environmental side effects have yet to be assessed."

The Sulu Sea between Palawan in the west and Mindanao is home to the Unesco World Heritage Tubbataha Reef Marine Park. *AFP*

Police release sketch of poll official's killer

From page A1

tor Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales described him as a dark-skinned man in fatigue pants and a black jacket, and wearing a cap.

Estimated to be between 39 and 41 years old, the man stands between 5'5" and 5'6", was armed with a .45-cal. pistol and had a companion with him when he shot the chief of the law department of the Commission on Elections on Saturday night in Manila's Ermita district.

The gunman reportedly fled toward Roxas Boulevard after the shooting.

"This information was based on the confirmatory statements of our witnesses," Rosales said. "They may help us trace who were with Dalaig before he was killed. We are now getting their statements but we cannot divulge the contents of those statements for now."

No premature disclosures

Amid claims by some politicians that politics might have been behind the killing, Mayor Lim warned against "premature disclosures" of leads being pursued by investigators.

"That's what Rosales and I talked about a while ago. No premature disclosures that could give color to the investigation," Lim told reporters. "They should just work on the case and mobilize their people, even if they have to [work] 24 hours a day."

The seeming gag order has stopped investigators from talking about what the probe has yielded so far.

Lim said investigators would talk to the media once they had obtained concrete leads and "found witnesses who can shed light" on the case.

"That's the time for them to present [their findings] to the media, once they had obtained statements and arrested the person," Lim added, in Filipino.

Help of Hyatt sought

Lim stressed he would not set a deadline for the police to finish their investigation to avoid pressuring them into "just grabbing anyone" who would admit involvement.

"We don't like that," he said.

He said the Hyatt Hotel management should cooperate in the probe.

Dalaig was shot near the Hyatt casino and investigators said they hoped the hotel management would allow them to see video footage from a closed circuit television which might yield more clues to the shooting.

"For purposes of police investigation they have to cooperate," Lim said. "Even if the incident happened outside the hotel, their equipment may have taken a shot of the area. They can be sued as an accessory for participating in the cover-up of a crime if they still refuse to cooperate in the investigation."

A familiar face

Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr., head of the MPD homicide division, earlier said investigators were having difficulty accessing the video footage and getting to the parking lot where Dalaig was believed to have left his vehicle.

Yanquiling also said a Philippine Gaming Corp. employee told him the Marawi City native was a familiar face in the casinos.

Investigators said Dalaig was carrying at least P300,000 when he was shot.

Former Philippine Ambassador Roy Señeres volunteered a possible angle in the killing.

Weeks before Dalaig was killed, Señeres said the poll official had agreed to testify against a faction of the Buhay party-list group headed by the son of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde.

"He was our material witness," Señeres said, citing a pending criminal case filed by his son, ex-Rep. Hans Christian Señeres, against three incumbent Buhay lawmakers, led by Rep. Rene Velarde.

The younger Señeres alleged that the younger Velarde—along with Representatives Ma. Carissa Coscolluela and William Irwin Tieng—was guilty of "usurpation of authority" for performing their congressional functions without being officially proclaimed by the Comelec.

Robles dismisses claim

Hans Señeres lost his slot in the Buhay roster submitted by Mel Robles, the group's former president, to the Comelec for the May 2007 party-list elections.

"He agreed to testify before the Quezon City fiscal that Velarde, Coscolluela, and Tieng reported for work at Congress without being proclaimed officially by the National Board of Canvassers," the elder Señeres told the INQUIRER.

But Roy Señeres made it clear he was not immediately implicating the Velarde camp to the killing.

"I just want authorities to look into this angle," he said.

Robles dismissed the Señeres claim.

"It's illogical because we got a favorable ruling from the Comelec, which ruled that it's my set of nominees that should be proclaimed," Robles said.

"If ever there are people who have something against the Comelec or its people, maybe they are those who did not get a favorable ruling."

Coscolluela also laughed off Señeres' allegation.

"It's completely ridiculous. (It) shows the desperation of our detractors. I categorically deny that we have something to do with the killing," Coscolluela said.

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento told reporters the poll body was not ruling out the angle that the killings of Dalaig and of Joseph del Rosario, election officer of Bacoor in Cavite, were due to personal or family reasons.

"There are many angles to be considered. It could be personal, familial or work-related," Sarmiento said. "To me, it is still premature to say if this shows a pattern."

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the killing of Dalaig demonstrated the government's "rotten electoral system."

Pimentel also urged Malacañang to "cleanse the Comelec" and look into reports that Dalaig's office had been under instruction to investigate the special board of canvassers that prematurely proclaimed Otho Montawal as mayor of Pagalungan, Maguindanao, and other local candidates during the May 14 elections.

The National Bureau of Investigation has also stepped into the case.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said he had asked the bureau's Anti-Organized Crime Division to look into the death threats supposedly received by Dalaig prior to his killing. ***With reports from Beverly T. Natividad, Christian V. Esguerra, Alcuin Papa, in Manila, and Edwin Fernandez, Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao***

Get set to welcome New Year with a toot

From page A1

would not be able to enforce an outright ban on firecrackers on public health considerations alone.

Duque said the government also needed to consider the livelihood of those depending on selling pyrotechnics and the Filipino tradition of celebrating the New Year with fireworks.

Thus, the planned phaseout.

Bloody year

DOH data show that fireworks-related injuries during last year's revelry—from Dec. 21, 2006 to Jan. 5, 2007—totalled 1,306 cases—a 50 percent increase from the comparative period in 2005-2006.

Duque said that a small and seemingly harmless firecracker, called the piccolo, had ranked third as cause of injury. The piccolo injured 119 children during that period.

New fireworks

"We should not take for granted those fireworks classified as legal, like *kwitis*," Duque said. "Even the small-sized piccolo should not be belittled because it has a short ignition time and causes instant injury."

The DOH is also pushing Congress to amend Republic Act No. 7813, which regulates the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of firecrackers.

"It is very important that we update our list regularly because there are always many new, and therefore, unclassified fireworks that find their way to the market each holiday season," said Duque.

Beware of watusi

He said that during the last holiday season, new kinds of fireworks burst forth, bearing such names as Camara, Chickboom, Dart Bomb, Tamba Lete, which are not yet on the banned list.

At present, the law allows the use and manufacture of pyrotechnics like baby rockets, silver fountain, *bawang*, small trianggulo and *watusi*.

Duque said that fireworks that were earlier thought to be harmless could also cause injury, particularly to children. The silver fountain, for example, could cause burns, he said.

Even the small watusi, he said, could poison small children when ingested.

There were three reported cases of *watusi* ingestion in the Dec. 21, 2006-Jan. 5, 2007 period. They involved two children and a 55-year-old adult.

Fight fat and global warming: Walk

From page A1

walking to school is a climate change intervention, an obesity intervention, a diabetes intervention, a safety intervention," Frumkin told The Associated Press. "That's the sweet spot."

Climate change is a deadly and worsening public health issue, according to Frumkin and other experts.

The World Health Organization estimated that 160,000 people died in 2000 from malaria, diarrhea, malnutrition and drowning from floods—problems that public health and climate scientists contend were worsened by global warming. Officials predict that in the future those numbers will be higher.

The American Public Health Association, which will highlight the health problems of global warming in April, is seeking to connect obesity and climate change solutions, according to its executive director, Dr. Georges Benjamin.

"This may present the greatest public health opportunity that we've had in a century," said Dr. Jonathan Patz, health sciences professor of University of Wisconsin and president of the International Association for Ecology and Health.

Reducing car travel

The key is getting people out of the car, Patz and Frumkin told the American Public Health Association at its annual convention.

The two scientists said reducing car travel in favor of biking or walking would not only cut obesity and greenhouse gases, it would also mean less smog, fewer deaths from car crashes, less osteoporosis, and even less depression since exercise helps beat the blues.

In a little-noticed scientific paper in 2005, Paul Higgins, a scientist and policy fellow with the American Meteorological Society, calculated specific savings from adopting federal government recommendations for half an hour a day of exercise instead of driving.

The average person walking half an hour a day would lose about 13 pounds a year. And if everyone did that instead of driving the same distance, the nation would burn a total of 10.5 trillion calories, according to the scientist, formerly with the University of California at Berkeley.

Higgings said it would also cut carbon dioxide emissions by about the same amount produced by the state of New Mexico, which has around 2 million people.

"The real bang for the buck in reducing greenhouse gas emissions was from the avoided health expenses of a sedentary lifestyle," he said.

Diet shift

But it is not just getting out of the car that is needed, according to Dr. Robert Lawrence of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

A diet shift away from heavy meat consumption would also go far because it takes much more energy and land to produce meat than fruits, vegetables and grains, Lawrence said.

Recent studies support that argument. Last year the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported that the meat sector of the global economy was responsible for 18 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Much of that is indirect, including the fertilizer needed to grow massive amounts of feed for livestock, energy use in the whole growing process, methane released from fertilizer and animal manure, and transportation of the cattle and meat products.

Similar calculations were made in a study in September in the medical journal Lancet.

The average American man eats 1.6 times as much meat as the government recommends, Lawrence said. Some studies have shown eating a lot of red meat is linked to a higher risk for colon cancer.

As for fighting obesity and global warming by walking and cycling, officials do not expect people to do it easily, said Kristie Ebi. She is a Virginia public health consultant and one of the lead authors of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

Citing the decades-long effort to curb smoking, she said: "It turns out changing people's habits is very hard." *AP*

Okinawans show way to long life

From page A1

past 100 years just like the Okinawans, as the two societies have many things in common.

Itokazu reveals that Okinawans love to sing, they respect their elders and treasure relationships—just like Filipinos. They also practice *yuimaru*, the spirit of helping one another, which is similar to *bayanihan* (cooperation).

"Filipinos have these qualities. We can have a long, happy life like the Okinawans," he said.

So why do few Filipinos live to be a hundred?

"Because we have forgotten some of these values," says Itokazu, whose father is Filipino while his mother, Okinawan. In the city, for instance, few people will do things for the sake of bayanihan.

Brotherhood, sympathy

There is also the Okinawan spirit of *ichariba choodee*, which means "whoever you meet by chance is your brother or sister."

This is similar to the Filipino terms *kapatiran* (brotherhood) and *kaputol* (a piece of) from which the contemporary *utol* (brother or sister) and *tol* are derived, Itokazu says.

Chimu gurisa, the Okinawans' way of sharing the sufferings of others, is also credited for the elders' longevity. Filipinos have this sympathetic trait, too, and it's called *pakikiramay* (act of sympathy).

The problem is, Itokazu says, Filipinos have started to let go of this trait as well.

Nankuranaisa is also a common recourse in Okinawa. It means "Let's forget about a setback. We did what we could. It's God's will." Itokazu said, "In Filipino, this is *bahala na* (we'll see) from the phrase, 'Bathala na (Let's leave it to God)."'

Sing and dance

Okinawans have a sense of community. They also love to sing and dance.

Etsuko Higa, a musicologist in Okinawa who has directed 27 theater groups of the elderly, says social cohesion combined with physical activities like singing and dancing have kept Okinawa's elderly healthy.

Bert Griffith, naturopathic doctor and director of the Okinawa Wellness Teaching Center in Okinawa, says: "If you are socially connected, you have a good chance of living a long and healthy life."

Griffith adds that in Okinawa, elderly groups perform plays and dances once a week, practice martial arts, learn flower arrangements and chat.

Urban dwellers can also live to be a hundred.

Ramesh Sharma, professor of the Department of Biochemistry, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India, says: "Dietary restrictions, the way Okinawans do it, could be enforced even if one lived in the city. A person should eat only 80 percent of what he or she is used to eating."

Griffith, a naturopathic doctor, says urban dwellers should eat healthy to age healthy. "Genes load the gun and lifestyle pulls the trigger."

Okinawans have been known to live on a plant-and-fruit-based diet (with the occasional fish and seafood).

Create a sanctuary

Griffith also suggests that "you create your own sanctuary. Steal away one hour every day and develop a meditation or stress relief strategy for yourself."

Imagine a serene river undisturbed by outside influences. "Every two hours, sit for five minutes visualizing yourself in a place very quiet and serene," he says.

Once this "rhythm of life" becomes a habit, this will create a biochemical environment that will help rid the blood of toxins. He notes that stress is the most underrated and under-recognized risk factor for a long list of lifestyle diseases.

"In life, [what matters] is not what happens but how you react to events," Griffith says, adding that the Okinawans' attitude is perfect for a stress-free, nontoxic body.

"We're starting to look at the biochemical makeup of the body in the face of stress. And stress has a lot to do with how you see things," he adds.

Healthy aging

Other tips to achieve healthy aging:

- Get enough sleep.
- Take a stroll in the park. Buy a pedometer and walk 10,000 steps a day.
- Try going meatless. Eat more fruits and vegetables.
- Avoid foods with trans fats found in cookies, crackers, icing, potato chips, stick margarine and microwave popcorn. About 80 percent of trans fat in American diet comes from factory-produced, partially hydrogenated vegetable oil.
- Drink eight glasses of water at proper intervals.
- Embrace spirituality.
- Stop smoking.

(The 3rd Okinawa International Conference on Longevity, Public Health and Policy was held Nov. 8-10 at the Manila Hotel. A joint effort of the Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine and the Okinawa Gerontology Institute, in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center, the conference was attended by 400 geriatric and family doctors, nurses, gerontologists, biochemists, musicologists and professors from Okinawa, Philippines, India, Hawaii and the United States.)

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COA report: Asean projects irregular

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) found several deficiencies in the implementation of the projects for the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit.

The COA report on the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) project, which included findings on Asean-related projects, was posted on the commission's website and did not indicate when it made the audit and came up with the findings.

No bidding

COA, in its audit report, noted that 136 projects worth more than P1.5 billion, as part of the preparation for the 12th Asean summit, were implemented through alternative methods of procurement, instead of through a public bidding.

Under Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9184 (Government Procurement Act), all government procurements should be done through competitive bidding, except those provided for in Article 16 of the Act where negotiated procurements are allowed under certain conditions.

In a memorandum dated June 23, 2006, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr. authorized the implementation of the projects through negotiated procurement, stating as a reason the lack of time to prepare for the Asean summit.

Refund

COA noted that the proximity of the scheduled activity could not be invoked since there was no man-made or natural calamity which occurred to require the bending of the rules to prevent loss of lives and properties.

In addition, the schedule and venue of the 12th Asean Summit were known during the 11th Asean Summit since both were agreed upon by the member-nations, the COA report pointed out.

COA said 63 projects, worth P766 million, were implemented without appropriate funding and perfected contracts, a violation of the law.

The agency also confirmed that the P54.9 million worth of 660 sets of street lamps installed in the cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu were bloated, resulting in P35.5 million loss for the government.

The COA directed the DPWH to demand the refund of the P24.9 million from Gampik Construction and Development Inc., the company that installed the street lamps.

If DPWH fail to do so, all those involved in the procurement process would be held liable for the amount involved, COA added.

More scams

The COA also found that 16 of DPWH regular maintenance projects, costing P168.3 million that were located outside the venues of the summit, were included in the list of Asean-related projects and implemented through negotiated procurement.

Several rehabilitation and repair works costing P30.3 million were implemented in private lands, resulting in the wasteful use of government funds, COA added.

RISK TAKER NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON
An unidentified family insisted on building a house on the dredged portion of Barangay Padang in Legazpi City that was all but wiped out by lahar and volcanic materials from Mayon volcano that heavy rains washed down at the height of Supertyphoon "Reming" last year.

Pampanga town ends extended 'undas' rites

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA—LIKE THEIR ELAborate woodcarving pieces and grandiose church, Catholics in Barangay Betis here revere their dead to the fullest.

Only on Saturday did they end their nine-day observance of *undas* (All Souls' Day), a tradition not known practiced elsewhere in the country, says Pampanga Bishop Pablo Virgilio David, a native of Betis.

The observance began on Nov. 1, an aberration that they share with the rest of Filipino Catholics who observed All Souls' Day on All Saints' Day that, in the Roman Catholic calendar, is reserved every first day of November.

Tradition

"*Akagisnan mi na* (We grew up on this tradition)," says Rosita Sangalang, 73, when asked how the ritual came about.

Every afternoon, from Nov. 1 to 9, Sangalang had lighted candles, offered flowers and recited the Holy Rosary before the tombs of her relatives buried at the Betis Catholic Cemetery.

Sangalang had done that without fail even if old age and arthritis had made her legs wobbly.

"*Aku ngeni, ika bukas* (It's my time to go now, it will be your turn tomorrow)," is the epigram inscribed on the two gates of this cemetery.

Buried thrice by Mt. Pinatubo's lahar since 1991, this cemetery had not ceased being in use by the hardy, creative and deeply religious people of Betis, one of Pampanga's ancient towns until it was annexed to Guagua in 1904.

Happy place

Most of the 2,000 graves here were not forlorn on Friday night. Families gathered, saying prayers in unison and tending candles as the hours went by. A family adorned its mausoleum with a Christmas lantern.

"*Pag-siyam* (nine-day feast)," is how Rosita Gozun, 63, calls this tradition that she says she learned from her grandparents.

Her daughter, Liza, says the tradition is "difficult" to observe among residents who work daily out of the village. They cope by asking relatives to do the ritual on their behalf.

Priests had taken turns celebrating Masses at the cemetery every 6 p.m.

Because that was the practice, the Archdiocese of San Fernando had allowed the construction of a chapel in the cemetery even as the Santiago de Galicia (St. James) Parish is less than 500 meters across it.

The chapel, built three meters from the ground, juts in the middle of a landscape of tombs, some dating as far back as 1868.

To conclude the feast on Saturday, Fr. Emil Dizon celebrated Mass at the church at 6 a.m. An hour later, he led the procession to the cemetery where he blessed the tombs with holy water.

Unique practice

Even Dizon is amazed at this tradition. His Betis assignment came a week ago.

"[The] Betis tradition is unique. Parishes may opt for a novena for the dead but that's usually held nine days before All Souls' Day, not after, and done in church," says David.

"Only Betis residents go daily to the cemetery for nine afternoons with flowers and candles. It must be a tradition that goes back to Spanish times," he adds.

Gov. Eddie Panlilio, a parish priest of Betis for seven years until he took a leave to run for public office in March, says no archival documents at the archdiocese's museum in the City of San Fernando explain the root of the Betis *undas*.

"I believe it's a result of tradition. The people are '*kosyang*' (very religious) and they loved their dearly departed so much," he says.

Archival records showed that Augustinian friars began the Catholic mission here in 1572 through Fray Fernando Pinto.

The libro (book), however, lists Fray Mateo Peralta at its first parocco (parish priest). Fray Jose de la Cruz built the stone church.

The place is named after the Betis tree, a type of hardwood that is rare nowadays.

"Early friars describe the faithful of Betis as the most pious and industrious people in the whole province, not to mention that Betis is said to have produced the most number of priests not only in Pampanga but in the entire country," according to Augustinian researcher, Fray Francisco Musni.

Betis and its neighboring areas of Bacolor (to the east) and Lubao (to the west) are among the ancient towns of Pampanga.

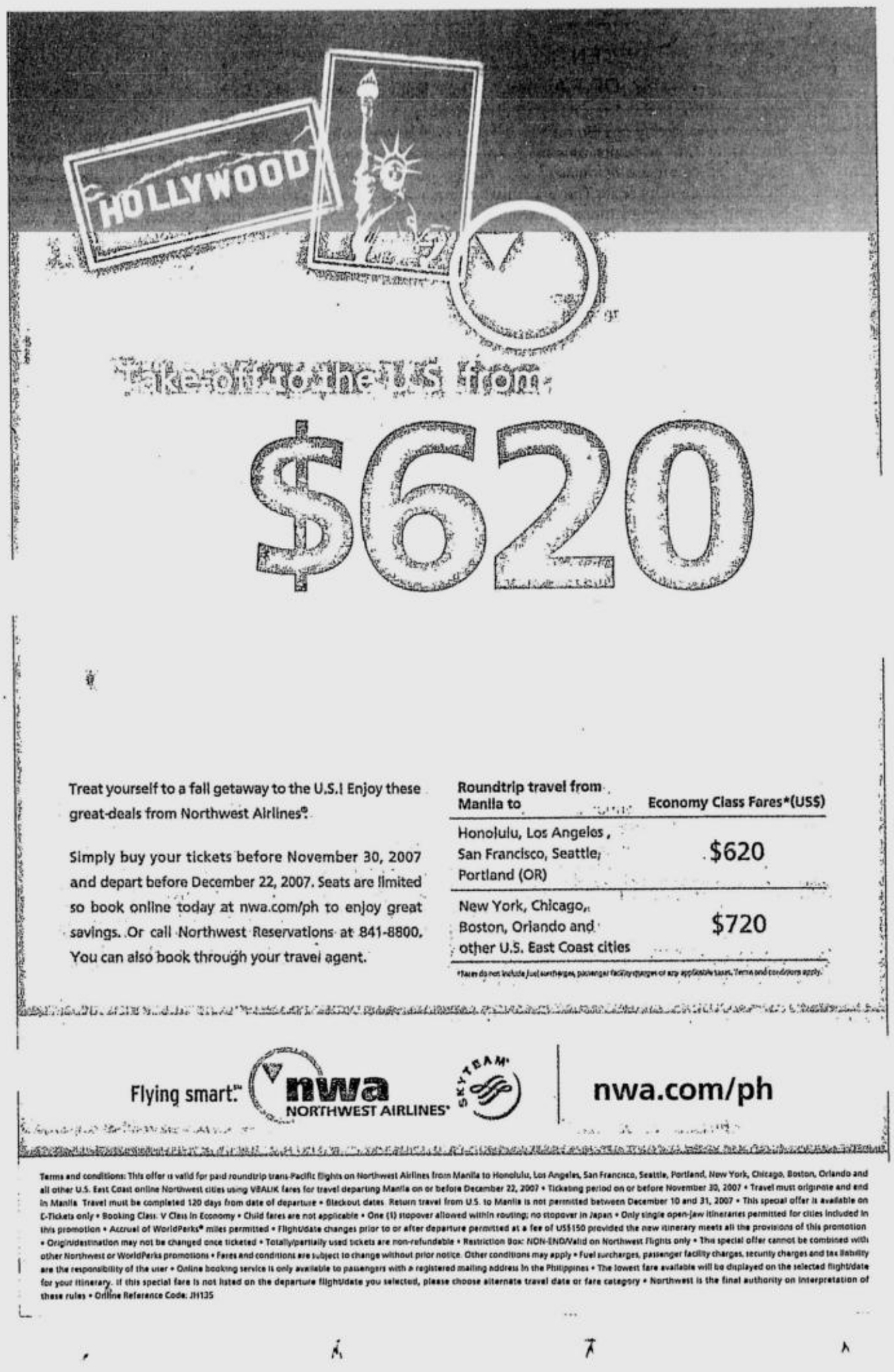
Evolution

Betis, originally a fishing and farming village of 700 people, developed into a town of artisans that specialized in making images of saints and furniture.

Its church has preserved the paintings of Simon Flores as well as ornate retablo (subaltar where icons of saints are displayed), chandeliers, windows and doors by unknown artisans. In its yard is preserved what is said to be the country's first deep well.

The National Museum had declared the church in Betis as a national cultural treasure in the early 1980s.

"AKU NGENI, ika bukas (It's my turn to go now, it's your turn tomorrow)," says this reminder at the gates of the Betis Catholic Cemetery in Guagua, Pampanga where the feast for the dead is observed for nine days. TONETTE T OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON



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Worm in seafood kills dozens in Zambo villages

SIAYAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL Norte—Health officials confirmed the capillariasis outbreak in several villages of this town where more than 70 people, including children, have reportedly died.

Dr. Raymund Nadela, municipal health officer, expressed alarm over the health situation in some villages, saying that the capillaria worm (*Capillaria philippinensis*) attack "is now an outbreak."

Based on random tests of wastes from 326 residents in the area, 81 people have been found positive for the disease, Nadela said.

Emeliano Villalon, chair of Barangay Moyo, said that since he was elected late October, a total of 31 adults and nine children have died of capillariasis.

Villalon said 38 others died from April to August.

But Nadela said he could not "outrightly say those who died earlier were confirmed to have capillariasis."

"We labeled them as deaths with suspected capillariasis," he said.

Nadela said the victims got the disease from eating freshwater fish and shrimps from the nearby rivers of Siayan.

"These shrimps and fish are carrying this type of worm known as capillaria, a microscopic worm that gets into the intestine and eats up all the nutrition of the person," he said.

Maria Teresita dela Cruz, information officer of the Department of Health in Western Mindanao, said some people in the province "love to eat *kinilaw* and there's a particular fish from the river which they love to eat raw with vinegar."

Dela Cruz said other than Siayan town, the health department received the same report in the village of Femagas in Katipunan town.

"But we don't have clear records as of this moment," she said.

Virgilio Lumawas, 43, a farmer of Moyo village, survived capillariasis but still complained of diarrhea.

Nadela said patients found with capillaria worms showed symptoms like diarrhea, extreme abdominal pain that leads to anemia, and muscle wasting.

"People think that they had gas pains, but the pain becomes excruciating coupled with gurgling sound, then the patient could hardly eat or sleep," Nadela explained.

Siayan Mayor Wilfredo Suasico said he became alarmed by the deteriorating health situation "when I keep on signing for approval request letters and solicitations for coffins."

Since October, Suasico said, he had granted the release of funds for the purchase of 32 coffins intended for the villages of Moyo, Dinuyan, Poblacion Lopot, Polayo, Balunukan and Baloc.

The outbreak and the hardest hit, according to Nadela, is Moyo village where, Suasico said, a total 24 coffins were delivered last month.

Nadela said that aside from capillariasis, the town was noted for the presence of lymphatic filariasis or elephantiasis, an abnormal growth of the lymphatic nodes due to a mosquito-borne disease that attacks the blood, and leprosy.

Although the cases of filariasis and leprosy have been taken care of since two years ago, Nadela still considers the diseases serious in some villages of Siayan. ***Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, with Inquirer Research***

EXPENSIVE BICYCLE LANE
TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON
Children ride their bicycles on the multimillion-peso Pasig Potrero Bridge, one of the components of the P27-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway that has not been completed by its Japanese contractors. The SCTEx opening was moved to March 2008.

DPWH told to finish ₱2-B, 100-km Samar road project

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways to finish a P2-billion road project in Northern Samar by 2010.

Laureano Suan Jr., DPWH assistant regional director, said the President made the order on Friday shortly after she made an aerial inspection and attended a briefing on the status of some road projects in Samar.

Suan said the construction of the road from Palapag town in Northern Samar to Arteche and San Policarpo towns in Eastern Samar, with a total length of more than 100 km, was scheduled to be completed by 2012 "as programmed," but the President wanted the project to be finished when her term ends in 2010.

More funds

He said the President had directed the DPWH to look into the budget of the project and to see if it was possible to "squeeze in" more funds in 2008 and 2009 so the project could be completed by 2010.

He disclosed that the President, who appeared dissatisfied with the accomplishment of the 53rd Engineer Brigade in the implementation of the Lapinig-Jipapad road project, was inclined to have the DPWH undertake the project.

The Lapinig-Jipapad road aims to link Northern Samar and Eastern Samar. The 5.2-km road work, which has a project cost of P20 million, is being funded out of the President's Social Fund.

The areas where the proposed road would pass through were once rebel-influenced, prompting the government to put up a road network as part of its peace-building effort in Eastern Visayas.

The completion of the road projects is seen as vital for the economic development of Eastern Samar and Northern Samar. It would also make Samar, the country's third largest island, accessible by land travel through an inter-provincial circumferential road that also covers Samar in the west.

In Samar province, the government implemented starting last year two big road rehabilitation projects.

These include the P1.4-billion Calbayog-Gatanguit Road and the P1.5-billion Gatanguic-Calbiga Road.

Acacia trees on Agusan road mangled

Protests swamp DPWH over uncoordinated cutting

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—They cut off the main branches of 17-year-old acacia trees planted on both sides of the national highway near the two public schools here. Now, the canopy shade that brings fresh air to school children and passers-by is gone.

But what the workers of the Department of Public Works and Highways did to the kilometer-long row of trees sparked a public outcry in this town.

Residents are appealing to local officials to act and save the remaining trees near the road and around the poblacion.

A FILE photo from Club Agusan showing a beautiful scene of a row of trees across the national highway near the public schools in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur. This scene is gone after the DPWH cut these trees.
CHRIS V. PANGANIBAN/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Despicable

"This is unacceptable, despicable act," said Butch Garcia, owner of Café Christina who planted the trees along the national highway approaching and around the poblacion in 1990.

Garcia diligently labored for months to nurture the trees he planted until they were old enough to survive.

Since last week, concerned residents started to denounce officials of the DPWH for lopping off the branches of acacia trees near the San Francisco Pilot Elementary School and the Agusan del Sur National High School that formed a canopy across the highway.

More protests

"While the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) is encouraging people to plant more trees along the roads in response to the global concern on climate change, here we have DPWH men who cut," said Dr. Lamberto de Leon, a former provincial board member.

The public outcry has prompted the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Council to discuss the issue as its main agenda in a meeting on Wednesday at the Sangguniang Bayan session hall.

No coordination

Alejandra Buiser, community environment and natural resources officer, said the DPWH should have first coordinated with her office before cutting off the tree branches for them to be guided which part of the branches should be trimmed without sacrificing the shade.

She lamented how the branches were haphazardly cut. Protruding, broken portions of the branches could invite parasites and eventually kill the trees, she said.

The DPWH engineers admitted their mistake and gave assurances that they would take corrective measures. But they insisted that the branches must go to ensure traffic safety.

Bernat said his agency was mandated to clear all traffic hazards, including trees within the road rights of way.

He defended the move to cut the tree branches by challenging his detractors during the meeting to choose between beauty and public safety. He said in his presentation that, for them engineers, they would prefer 100-percent public safety and 50-percent beauty.

Buiser claimed 75 percent of those planted have survived, but De Leon, who was apparently not convinced, wanted an inventory of the planted trees jointly conducted by the government and private sector. ***Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao***

> 'While the DENR is encouraging people to plant more trees...here we have DPWH men who cut them...'

Other civic groups, like the Rotary Club of San Francisco, have aired their disgust.

Local reporters joined the growing protest as they took turns in lambasting DPWH district engineer Jaime Bernat and his assistant, Rocky Cabanos, on public affairs programs, newspaper columns and on the simulcast broadcast of "KBP Hour" program on Tuesday.

A video documentary titled "Unsay Sala sa Mga Kahoy? (What have the trees done wrong?)" showing before and after scenes has been posted in the YouTube.

RECENTLY ISSUED REGULATIONS AMENDING THE TIME OF PAYMENT OF MCIT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Recently, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Regulations No. (RR) 12-2007 which amended Section 2.27(E) of RR 9-98, the regulations relating to the imposition of minimum corporate income tax (MCIT) on domestic and resident foreign corporations. The amendatory provisions were intended to align the payment of MCIT with the quarterly filing and payment of corporate normal income tax pursuant to Sections 75 and 77 of the 1997 Tax Code, as amended, as well as to clarify further the definition of gross income for purposes of computing the tax base of the 2% MCIT.

Thus, in the filing and payment of the quarterly corporate income tax after the effectivity of RR 12-2007, the following shall be observed:

- The computation and the payment of 2% MCIT based on gross income shall likewise apply at the time of filing of quarterly corporate income tax as prescribed under Sections 75 and 77 of the 1997 Tax Code, as amended
- Gross income subject to the 2% MCIT as defined in RR 12-2007, likewise includes other items of gross income realized or earned by the taxpayer apart from the income derived from core business activities during the taxable period which are subject to the normal corporate income tax. This means that the same includes all items of gross income enumerated under Section 32(A) of the 1997 Tax Code, as amended, except income exempt from income tax and income subject to final tax
- If in the computation of the tax due for the taxable quarter, the computed quarterly MCIT due appears to be higher than the computed quarterly corporate normal income tax, the quarterly corporate income tax to be paid shall be the MCIT. Excess MCIT from prior taxable year/s shall not be allowed to be credited, while the following may be applied against the quarterly MCIT due:
  - Expanded withholding tax in the current and prior years
  - Quarterly corporate income tax payments under normal income tax paid in the previous taxable quarter/s of the current taxable year
  - Quarterly MCIT paid in the previous taxable quarter/s of the current taxable year
- If in the computation of the tax due for the taxable quarter, the computed quarterly normal income tax due appears to be higher than the computed quarter MCIT due, then quarterly corporate income tax to be paid shall be the corporate normal income tax. In the payment thereof, the following may be applied in order to get the net corporate normal income tax payable for the quarter:
  - Excess MCIT from prior taxable year/s
  - Expanded withholding tax in the current and prior years
  - Quarterly corporate income tax payments under normal income tax paid in the previous taxable quarter/s of current taxable year
  - Quarterly MCIT paid in the previous taxable quarter/s of the current taxable year
- The above same rules shall apply in the annualized computation of corporate income tax at the end of the taxable year.

Nonetheless, as provided by Sec. 3 of the transitory provisions of RR 12-2007, in the filing of the quarterly income tax for the taxable quarter which is due for filing after the effectivity of said Regulations, the computation of the MCIT for the transitory quarter following the effectivity of the Regulations, shall be done on a cumulative basis covering not only the current taxable quarter but also the previous taxable quarters of the same taxable year. Thus, for 3rd quarter ending September 2007 which is due for filing on or before November 30, 2007, the 1st and 2nd quarters' gross income shall be added to the gross income for the 3rd quarter ending September 2007, in order to get the cumulative gross income subject to the 2% MCIT which shall then be compared with the cumulative corporate income tax computed under the normal income tax. Whichever is the higher between the two shall be the basis of the tax due for said transitory quarter.

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 2007 National Assembly for Diabetes Educators on November 19, 2007 at the Century Park Hotel. Our theme for this year is: New Therapies: Redesigning Diabetes Treatment.

Years ago, when a person was diagnosed with diabetes, it meant early death from cardiovascular disease often preceded by loss of limb, blindness or kidney failure. But thankfully, those days are over. There have been many new advances in treatment and technology that have made it possible for people with diabetes to live long, productive lives.

Our vision for this year's national assembly is to update our diabetes educators with the latest in these medical advances, while bringing them together for better networking and interaction.

A number of new therapies based on the biological actions of the incretin hormones (GLP-1 and GIP) have been developed. Many of these compounds improve glucose tolerance, lower A1C levels, prevent weight gain and increase beta-cell mass in preclinical experiments. There are two types of incretin based drugs available – *Incretin mimetics and Incretin enhancers (DPP-IV inhibitors).*

New formulations of insulin have likewise become available. They have been designed to offer the advantages of simpler regimens and better glucose control with less risk of hypoglycemia and weight gain. All are human insulin analogs derived from recombinant DNA technology.

During this year's National Assembly, we shall also be inducting our new fellows to the Philippine College of Diabetes Educators as well as our new Associate Diabetes Educators. We will also be launching our Diabetes Center Teaching Aids, which will thereafter be distributed to our satellite clinics all over the country for use in diabetes education.

Please join us at the 2007 National Assembly of Diabetes Educators so that together we can work towards improved diabetes care for the Filipino patient.

Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua
President
The Diabetes Center Philippines

Philippine Center for Diabetes Education Foundation, Inc.

2007 National Assembly for Diabetes Educators
November 19, 2007
Century Park Hotel, Manila

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PROGRAMME

7:30–8:45	**REGISTRATION**	
8:45	Opening	Emcee : Dr. Carol N. Montano
	National Anthem	Dr. Carol N. Montano
	Invocation	
	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua
9:00-10:00	Plenary Session	Chair : Dr. Yvette Amante

"Understanding the Glucoregulatory Roles of Incretin Hormones"
Speaker: Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua

10:00-10:30	Message from Philippine College of Diabetes Educators	Dr. Tommy Ty Willing
	Induction of new Associate Diabetes Educators	Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua Dr. Joy C. Fontanilla
	Induction of new Fellows, Philippine College of Diabetes Educators	Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua Dr. Tommy Ty Willing
10:30-11:00	Opening of Exhibits/Coffee Break	Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua Dr. Cynthia H. Manabat
11:00-12:20	Symposium I: Incretin-based Therapies	Chair: Dr. Susan Yu-Gan
11:00-11:30	"Enhancing the Incretin Effect with DPP-4 Inhibitors" Speaker: Dr. Maria Honolina S. Gomez	
11:30-12:00	"Mimicking the Incretin Effect: Exenatide and Other Incretin Analogs" Speaker: Dr. Joy C. Fontanilla	
12:00-12:20	Open Forum	
12:20-2:00	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM	

"ADVANCE in Diabetes and Vascular Disease Management"
Speaker: Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua

2:00-2:30	VISIT EXHIBITS	
2:30-4:00	Novel Insulins	Chair: Dr. Guia Wassmer
2:30-3:10	"Insulin Analogues: Transforming Traditional Care" Speaker: Dr. Cynthia H. Manabat	
3:10-3:50	"Inhaled Insulin: A Practical Perspective" Speaker: Dr. Rima Tan	
3:50-4:00	Open Forum	

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DID YOU KNOW

THE 185,000-sq m Glorietta mall in Makati City is one of several Ayala malls in Metro Manila. The others are Greenbelt in Makati, Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa, Market! Market! in Taguig and TriNoma in Quezon City.

Glorietta, which offers shopping and dining options plus an indoor playground and activity center, was declared Shopping Center of the Year in 2002 and 2004 by the Philippine Retailers Association and the Department of Trade and Industry. On Oct. 19, the mall was rocked by an explosion which killed 11 persons. The incident is still under investigation. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

CA confirms double murder conviction

But downgrades sentence of 2 men found guilty of trader, driver's slay

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS AFfirmed the double murder conviction of two alleged members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade for the killing of a Chinese-Filipino businessman and his driver 12 years ago.

The appellate court, however, in its Oct. 30 decision, downgraded the death sentence handed down by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on the two convicted men to *reclusion perpetua* without the possibility of parole. President Macapagal-Arroyo last year abolished the death penalty.

The suspects—Ruperto Lopez Jr. and Orlando Bondalian Jr.—were also ordered to pay the heirs of Leonardo Ty, 81, a businessman and his driver, Nestor Encarnacion, more than P2.7 million in damages.

Ty and Encarnacion were ambushed by six armed men on Dec. 11, 1995, at the corner of Tandang Sora and General Avenue in Quezon City.

Lopez and Bondalian had contested their conviction, saying the testimony given by a witness was false and untrustworthy because of contradictions, and that their guilt had not been proven beyond reasonable doubt.

They also claimed that they were not properly identified as the assailants, adding that the witness, Delea Villanueva, had said in her affidavit that she could not remember the faces of the men who attacked the victims. They said that she pointed to them only upon the prodding of the police.

According to Bondalian, he was arrested because he was a member of the cause-oriented group, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod.

But in upholding the two men's conviction for murder, the appellate court said Villanueva had explained the apparent inconsistency in her testimony by saying that she did not have an opportunity to read her affidavit because of many people were asking her questions at that time.

It added that Villanueva's identification of the suspects outside the court room was valid, saying the witness was shown the pictures of eight persons, including those of the two suspects.

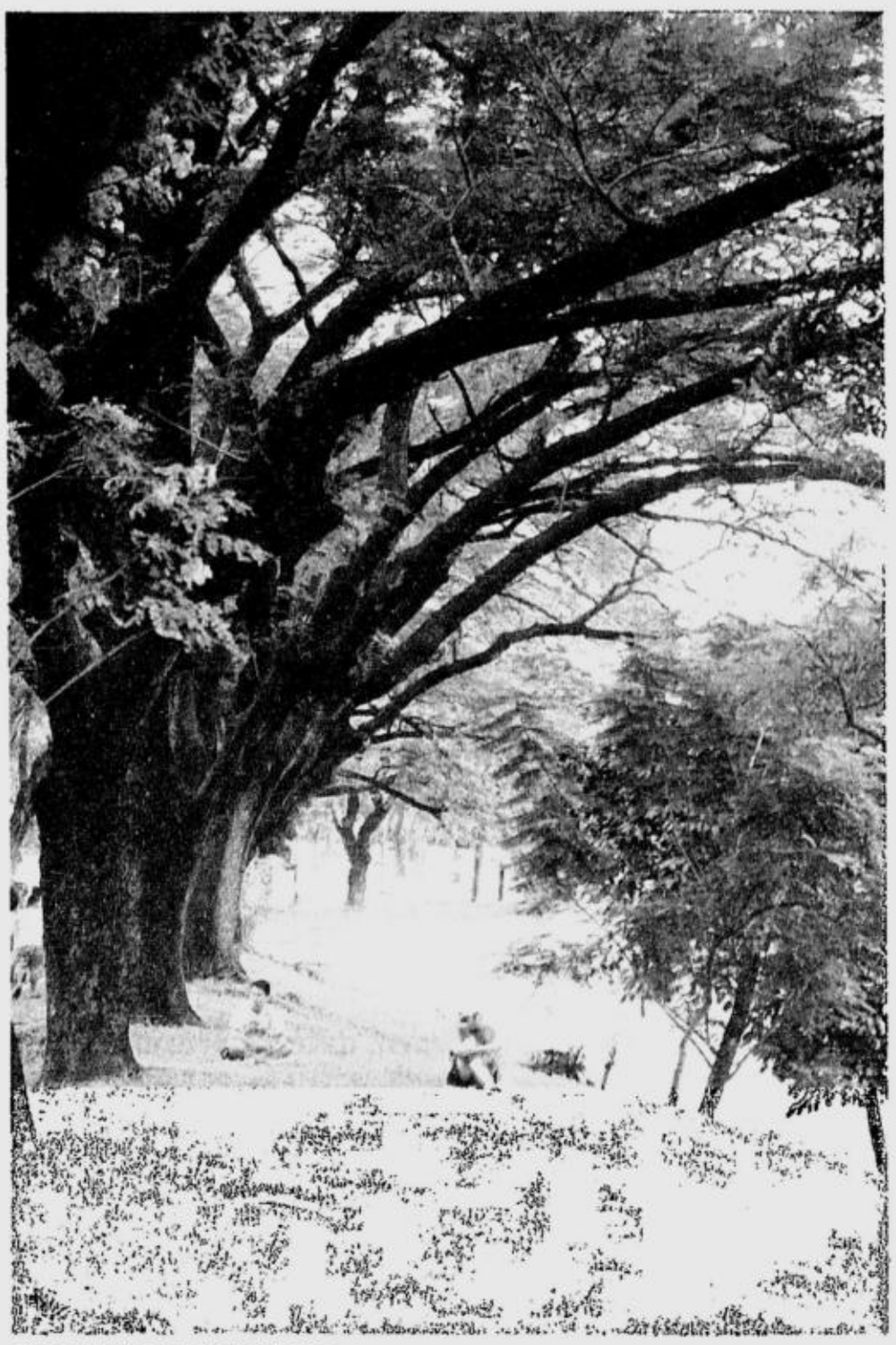
"Nothing in the record would show that the police merely suggested the accused-appellants' identities to Delea," the court said.

The appellate court noted that the witness' identification of the suspects through pictures and videotapes took place a day after the ambush and that Villanueva was only five meters away from the suspects when they shot Ty and Encarnacion in broad daylight. She also had no ill motive for making false statements against Lopez and Bondalian, it added.

"Even assuming arguendo that the accused-appellants' out-of-court identifications were tainted with irregularities, Delea's subsequent identifications of them in court cured any flaw that may have attended it," the court said.

Villanueva had testified that she was in a jeepney when three men boarded the vehicle and told the driver to follow a blue Mercedes Benz. She also saw three men in front of a nearby small store while the vehicles were stalled in traffic.

The witness said Lopez was standing near the store while Bondalian was seated nearby. She then saw the two, plus a third man, walk toward the car carrying Encarnacion and Ty and fire at it several times. The three men in the jeepney then alighted and also shot at the car. When the six men saw that the car's passengers were dead, they shouted "Mabuhay ang ABB (Long live the ABB)." The men then escaped on board another jeepney.



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR RUDY ESPERAS
The tree-lined Sunken Garden provides a pleasant place where joggers on the University of the Philippines Diliman campus can catch their breath after a few laps.

Driver who rammed vehicle into funeral march faces raps

By Kristine L. Alave

THE MARIKINA CITY POLICE YESTERDAY filed criminal charges in the prosecutor's office against the driver of a vehicle which plowed into a funeral procession on Sunday, killing three people and injuring 11 more.

Supt. Sotero Ramos, chief of the city police, said they charged Gerardo Fernando, 41, and a messenger residing in Antipolo City, with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide, multiple physical injuries and damage to property.

Fernando could also be charged with drunk driving after he tested positive for alcohol.

Ramos added that he would ask the Land Transportation Office to revoke Fernando's license, saying it was one of the most unusual and gruesome road mishaps he has seen.

According to the police official, Fernando admitted that he drank alcohol before leaving his house in Antipolo City on board a Suzuki Wagon.

On his way to Manila, Fernando fell asleep behind the wheel and drove into a group of mourners on Marcos Highway.

Ramos said the suspect only woke up when he heard people banging on the side of his vehicle.

Three people who were part of the procession were killed in the incident.

Jay Carmelo, 34, was killed on the spot, while two women identified as Mary Joy Quilar, 38, and Susana Rodriguez, 40, died while undergoing treatment. Police said 11 more were being treated in different hospital for injuries.

Robbers strike in Las Piñas, snatch ₱.8M from armored van

By Julie M. Aurelio

SEVEN ARMED MEN TOOK P800,000 IN cash from a Banco de Oro armored van parked near the convenience store of a gas station on J. Aguilar Avenue, Barangay CAA, Las Piñas City yesterday morning.

Two men were injured as the suspects traded gunshots with security guards of a Shell gasoline station.

They were identified as Roel Mato, the van's security escort, and Joseph Nietos, a Banco de Oro teller. Both were rushed to the Las Piñas Doctors Hospital for treatment and remain under observation at press time.

An initial investigation showed that the incident happened at 11:45 a.m. as the victims were collecting money from the Select convenience store.

Store personnel were loading two green bags containing P800,000 in cash into the van when two of the suspects, who pretended to be store customers, announced the holdup, according to PO3 Ernesto Bautista.

The suspects ordered everyone to lie face down on the ground, then shot Mato and Nietos twice before fleeing with the money on board a white Toyota Corolla with plate number TAJ 277 and two motorcycles.

The car was later recovered on Liwanag St., San Antonio Village in Barangay CAA.

Another vehicle, a black Starex van with plate number XCR 619, and three other motorcycles served as backup vehicles of the Corolla, police said.

The vehicles headed toward Sucat, Parañaque City.

Senior Insp Jandale Sulit, head of the criminal investigation section of the Las Piñas City police, said they were still conducting a follow-up investigation to determine which group was behind the robbery.

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Death threats on Makati mayor's breakfast menu

By DJ Yap

ON HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY LAST Sunday, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay woke up to death threats, instead of birthday greetings.

He received the threats which were sent through text messages by a man who identified himself as "*Ka* Bobot," the mayor's security officer told the police yesterday.

Vincent Inonog reported to the police that his boss received several menacing messages early Sunday morning from an unidentified person who was using the cell phone number 0920-4129555.

Some of the messages, in Filipino, read: "It's your end. You will be judged for your shamelessness. Don't try *Ka* Gloria. I love her very much, *Ka* Bobot."

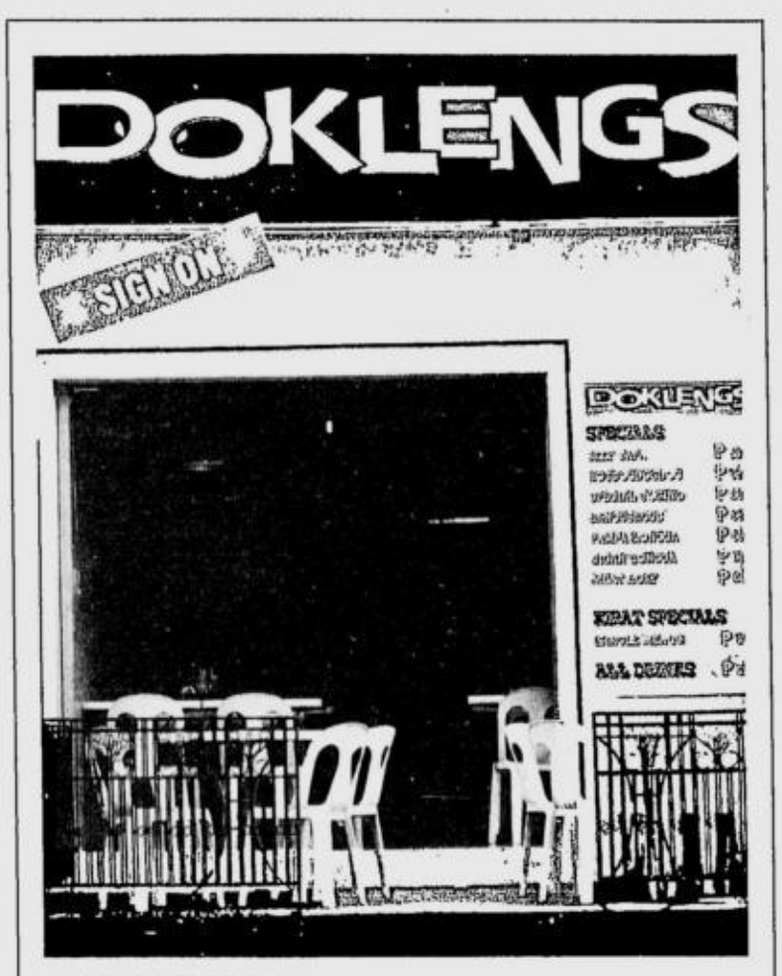
Other messages warned Binay to "be careful," said Senior Insp. Macvernon Manera, chief of the Makati police intelligence and investigation section. The messages were sent from 1:02 a.m. to 10:37 a.m., based on the phone log book.

Manera said the mayor had actually received several other messages in the past few days, but decided to report it only yesterday, as the messages came one after the other.

Makati police chief, Supt. Gilbert Cruz, said they had determined that the number was a prepaid line, but as of yesterday, it was already unreachable.

Manera said that with this development, the mayor's security would be beefed up. "We are in close coordination with the mayor's security people," the police official said.

Asked if they believe that the text messages came from members of the communist New People's Army, based on the "Ka" tag, Manera said they were not ruling out any possibilities.



THE EYES HAVE IT
A fast food outlet along Maginahawa Street in UP Village, Quezon City offers an eye-catching menu. JOAN BONDOC

Pasay City barangay polls winners sworn in

By Julie M. Aurelio

AFTER WINNING IN THE OCT. 29 barangay elections, 198 newly elected barangay chairs were sworn in by Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad yesterday morning.

However, the city government and the local Commission on Elections have yet to resolve issue on the declaration of a failure of elections in Barangay 76 following reports of ballot snatching.

"I will meet with the contesting candidates of Barangay 76 to resolve the issue," Trinidad said in a phone interview.

Based on reports, supporters of a candidate allegedly tried to seize ballot boxes and paraphernalia from several polling precincts in the barangay, prompting election officer Anthonette Soriano to declare a failure of elections.

After the oath-taking, Trinidad asked the new barangay leaders to work hard in eradicating illegal drugs and increasing educational opportunities for their residents.

"Let us work together to stamp out poverty and hunger, push for more educational opportunities and weed out illegal drugs," the mayor said.

Pasay City has 201 barangays but only 198 chairmen took their oath before Trinidad after the flag-raising ceremony yesterday.

"We also ask our leaders to strictly enforce the curfew for minors and be friendly to their constituents. And also, proper garbage management and disposal," Trinidad said.

The mayor recently ordered a renewed cleanup drive in the city after a three-month-old baby was bitten by rats in a house in the city.

The oath-taking was also attended by Pasay City Rep. Lito Roxas, Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto and city hall employees.

Businessman in Pasig road rage incident nabbed

By Kristine L. Alave

POLICE ARRESTED A BUSInessman after he allegedly shot a tow truck driver following a traffic altercation in Pasig City yesterday morning.

Pasig City police chief, Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, said the suspect was identified as Aaron Lizano, 55, and a businessman residing in Barangay Krus na Ligas, Quezon City.

Lizano was accused of firing at Agosto Gonzales, 27, a driver of JMF Towing Co., Uyami said, adding that the incident was a case of road rage.

The report said Lizano, who was driving an Isuzu Crosswind (ZBS 387) was irked at Gonzales, who was on board a tow truck (TWN 748), after they almost collided on C-5 Avenue in Barangay Bagong Ugong, Pasig City at 9:25 a.m.

According to Gonzales' statement, Lizano got out of his vehicle and aimed at him once with a cal. .25 firearm, hitting his side mirror.

The driver was unharmed and immediately reported the incident to the police who chased Lizano after he reportedly tried to leave the scene.

Husband dies in fight with wife over gun

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A POLICEWOMAN ACCIDENtally shot and killed her husband as they were grappling for possession of her service firearm inside their house in Novaliches, Quezon City last Sunday.

PO2 Ederlinda Bacuitis Almonte, 28, assigned at the National Capital Regional Police Office, voluntarily placed herself in the custody of the Quezon City Police District Novaliches Station 4 after the incident.

Her husband, Darwin, 29, was declared dead on arrival at the Far Eastern University Hospital. He had been shot once in the jaw, with the bullet exiting through the top of his head.

According to reports from the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, the incident happened at 10:45 a.m. Sunday inside the couple's home in Miranda Village I, Tawid Sapa II, Barangay Kaligayahan.

SPO2 Jojo Mortel of the CIDU told the INQUIRER that the couple had been arguing over financial and personal matters.

"The victim had no job. His wife told me that she and her husband constantly fought over money matters," Mortel said in Filipino.

As they were arguing, Darwin grabbed his wife's bag, where she kept her .9mm Beretta service firearm, and took out the gun.

Mortel said Almonte tried to wrest the firearm away from her husband but it went off in the process.

PO2 Roque Palma and PO2 Reginald Madija, who were called in by the couple's neighbors after the incident, brought the Darwin to the FEU Hospital, but he died on arrival.

Almonte later went to the Novaliches police station to give herself up and to surrender her service firearm.

She was subsequently turned over to the custody of the QCPD-CIDU pending the filing of a parricide charge against her.

'SENATORS AT WORK'
Senate President Manny Villar cuts the ribbon during the opening of the Senate Press Photographers Association's photo exhibit titled "Senators at Work for the People." Flanking him are (from left) Luis Garcia of Manila Bulletin; Andy Valle, Malaya; Rudy Rabulan, Saksi; Junny Roy, The Daily Tribune; Roger Margallo, Inquirer and Joseph Muego, Panay News. The exhibit will run until Nov. 17 at the Senate building in Pasay City. CEZAR TOMAMBO, CONTRIBUTOR

Baby boy with meningitis needs financial help

ONE-YEAR-OLD ZANE ADRIAN Panergo was born with meningitis, an inflammation of the brain membrane.

Panergo's condition, characterized by the presence of water in his head, led to hydrocephallus when he underwent an operation, according to Lawrence Gonzaga, the baby's 22-year-old father.

Gonzaga, a resident of Kapalaran Street in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, said the continuous medication and therapy which his son has gone through could have affected his growth and development. The boy is confined at the Philippine Children's Medical Center on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Panergo, who takes the surname of his mother, Lalaine, Gonzaga's common-law wife, is unable to see clearly. He cannot walk and his teeth have yet to grow.

"The smile on Zane's face every time we touch his lips continues to inspire us to look for people who could help him survive," Gonzaga said.

Those who want to help Zane can contact the Gonzagas at 9323461. They can also deposit their donations in his aunt's bank account in any Metrobank branch (account name Glenie Gonzaga, account number 0443044714176). *Santiago R. Alcantara*

METROBRIEFS

4 SWAT members injured while chasing robbers

FOUR members of an elite police team were hurt when the police car they were riding in slammed into a truck and a bridge railing in Navotas City last Sunday. Based on a police report, members of a Special Weapons and Tactics team were running after motorcycle-riding robbers when the tire of their patrol car exploded on the Marala Bridge in North Bay Boulevard South. The vehicle subsequently hit a bridge railing and a parked truck as the robbers escaped. PO2 Marco Santos, who was driving the police car, sustained spinal injuries and is now confined at the National Orthopedic Hospital. Also hurt were PO2 Roberto Bala, PO2 Mariano Buntan and PO1 Carlos Yap. They suffered minor injuries and were released after treatment.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Manila City Hall opens third satellite office

THE ELDERLY in the Tayuman area in Sta. Cruz, Manila no longer have to go to the Manila City Hall to get a senior citizen's card with the opening of a satellite office in the area today. Mayor Alfredo Lim will lead city officials in opening the third "mini city hall" as part of the city government's efforts to speed up the delivery of services. Aside from senior citizen ID cards, residence, health and birth certificates, police clearances, business permits, marriage license fees, death certificates and tax payments can also be processed at the satellite office. Residents can also have their documents delivered to their doorstep free of charge. Other services offered are burial assistance, access to livelihood programs and referrals to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. "The objective is to expedite the delivery of services to the residents of Manila and make it less expensive and more convenient," said City Administrator Jesus Mari Marzan, overall supervisor of the satellite offices. The city's other satellite offices are located at the Dapitan Sports Complex in Sampaloc and at the Tondo Sports Complex.

Allison W. Lopez

Micro-finance seminar set on Nov. 14

JOIN the "Setting up and managing effectively a micro-finance and micro-lending organization" on Nov. 14 at the Banahaw Room, Legend Hote at 60 Pioneer St. in Mandaluyong City. Resource experts from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, CARD Inc., New Rural Bank of San Leonardo Inc., Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives and the Development Bank of the Philippines will share their expertise and experiences in establishing a micro-finance organization and how to manage it effectively and succesfully. For registration, please call TKCP at 3812664, 5310084 or 0919-2299777, 0919-2299780 or e-mail tritium@pldtdsl.net or tkcp_ph@yahoo.com.

Car accessories exhibit starts today

MANILA Auto Salon, an exhibit of car accessories, will be held at SMX Convention Center beside the Mall of Asia from Nov. 13 to 18. Repesa Corp., the exclusive distributor in Asia Pacific of anticar theft devices, will be one of the show's exhibitors. Three anticar theft units will be raffled off to lucky patrons during the event. For information, please call 4567898 or 9848918.

PNP intel officer, 24 others relieved for 'irregularities'

By Julie M. Aurelio

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police Office chief, Director Geary Barias, yesterday ordered the relief of his intelligence officer and 24 other policemen for "alleged irregularities in the performance of their duties."

Supt. Napoleon Villegas, head of the Regional Police Intelligence Operations Unit, and 24 of his men were relieved after Barias said he received several complaints against the unit.

Villegas was replaced by Supt. Ferdinand Ampil, former deputy police chief of Parañaque City.

Barias cited, in particular, the unit's involvement in the arrest of three foreigners for illegal gambling in Binondo last month.

According to him, the RPIOU should be going after big-time holdup and drug syndicates.

"Why would they operate against a small-time illegal gambling den and arrest aliens for playing card games? I couldn't explain why they have such an interest in that," he said.

Barias ordered the unit's new officer to concentrate on counter-intelligence and big-time robbery holdup groups and drug syndicates.

"They will not be concerned with low-level crimes like video karera and anti-illegal gambling," he told reporters.

The relief of Villegas and his men came after the RPIOU arrested a Chinese couple who tried to bribe them in exchange for the release of the foreigners arrested in the gambling den.

Asked if this had anything to do with Villegas' relief, Barias replied, "I do not know the exact details. They are still under investigation for alleged irregularities."

No. 1 violators of human rights

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

SOME COMMISSION ON ELECtion officials are asking for police bodyguards after receiving death threats.

If these Comelec officials were fair in counting the votes, why would losing candidates want to have them killed?

* * *

Comelec legal chief Alioden Dalaig was shot dead by an unknown assassin in front of the Hyatt casino.

He was carrying P300,000 when he was killed.

Add a few thousands of pesos more to that amount and the sum would be his annual salary.

There were insinuations that Dalaig was a frequent visitor at the casino.

* * *

The assassination of Dalaig focuses once again on the proliferation of firearms among civilians.

The public, especially the antigun advocates, is again blaming its favorite whipping boy, the licensed gun holder.

They forget that most murders were committed by persons who used unlicensed guns.

A licensed gun owner will think twice before committing a crime.

* * *

Several days after the accident at the intersection of Arnaiz Avenue and Osmeña Highway in Makati City that killed Dulce Saguisag, wife of former Sen. Rene Saguisag, and injured the senator, another road mishap killed three people in Marikina.

The first and second accidents were related in that they were caused by blatant violation of traffic rules. The first was caused by the driver of the dump truck who allegedly tried to beat the red light; the second, was reportedly a result of drunk driving.

When traffic enforcers look the other way, reckless drivers have a heyday.

* * *

Haven't you noticed that big mishaps come in pairs or threes?

If there's a plane crash, it's followed by another plane mishap.

Remember when a helicopter bearing senatorial candidate Luis "Chavit" Singson crashed?

That was followed by another helicopter crash.

And then a third one.

I've noticed the striking coincidences since I covered the police beat in the 1970s and 1980s when I was also assigned to cover disasters.

Why is that so? I have no answer. Do you?

* * *

Some people accuse the military as the No. 1 human rights violator because of the disappearances and killings of leftists.

Are they kidding? Policemen are still the No. 1 violators of the human and constitutional rights of citizens.

Most of the complaints my staff at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" receive concern abuses committed by policemen.

Seldom do we receive complaints about soldiers abusing civilians.

That's probably because soldiers are aware the country is no longer under martial law.

By the way, "Isumbong" still receives complaints from the public even if we still don't have radio and TV programs at the moment.

Our phone numbers are 929-57-88; 0921-238-6423; 0917-838-2166.

Complainants can also visit our office 85 Timog Ave., Quezon City.

Russian tanker sinks, spills 1,300 tons of oil

NOVOROSSIISK, RUSSIA, —Russian authorities launched a major rescue operation at the northern mouth of the Black Sea on Monday to save missing seamen and contain environmental damage after a storm sank at least four ships and split open a small oil tanker.

Three bodies were found ashore near the Tuzla Spit, a piece of land jutting out from the Russian coast toward the Ukrainian Crimea, Interfax news agency reported. Russia's Emergencies Ministry said at least eight other sailors were missing.

"A border patrol discovered three persons in life vests grounded on the coastline near Tuzla Spit. They may have been crew members of the dry cargo ship Nakhichevan that sank in the port of Kavkaz," Interfax quoted a spokesperson as saying.

Sunday's storm broke in two a small Russian oil tanker, the Volgoneft-139, off the Ukrainian port of Kerch, spilling at least 1,300 tons of fuel oil in what a Russian official described as an "environmental disaster."

The same storm in narrow straits between the Black Sea and Azov Sea, also sank at least four freighters, three carrying sulfur and one with a cargo of scrap metal. The heavy seas also cracked the hull of another oil tanker, but the ship was afloat.

Russian officials said shipping in the area had been warned well in advance of heavy storms but it appeared some captains had chosen to ignore the advice and put to sea.

Viktor Beltsov, a spokesperson for the Russian Emergencies Ministry, said that six other ships had run aground, though they were not carrying oil.

He said 165 rescuers had already saved 35 crew members and were hunting for the other missing seamen.

Officials said that in the cold winter temperatures the fuel oil may sink to the bottom of the sea rather than float on the surface, making it harder to find and disperse.

The Georgian-registered Captain Ismael and the Turkish-flagged Ziya Koc were both stranded on the shoreline, not far from local hotels. The Ziya Koc was carrying a cargo of metal but the Captain Ismael was empty, local officials said.

The sunken oil tanker, Volganeft-139, had traveled from the Russian port of Azov and was anchored outside Kerch in Ukraine's eastern Crimea to ride out the weather, when high waves broke its back on Sunday.

The 1978-built tanker, designed primarily for river and coastal service, was carrying 4,000 tons of fuel oil in total when it was hit by the storm.

The likely effects of the spill were not immediately clear.

A spill over 700 tons is considered large, but the biggest ones run into the tens or even hundreds of thousands.

The polluted area is at the heart of the migration route from central Siberia into the Black Sea of red-throated and black-throated Siberian diver birds. *Reuters*

Rice: Senate did not sanction war on Iran

WASHINGTON—SECRETARY of State Condoleezza Rice denied Sunday that the United States was bent on war with Iran and renewed an offer of reconciliation talks if the Islamic republic renounces its nuclear drive.

Interviewed on ABC television, Rice was pressed on a Senate resolution passed in September that labeled Iran's Revolutionary Guards a terrorist operation—a step that critics said had brought war nearer.

She said that President George W. Bush was clear "that he's on a diplomatic path where Iran comes into focus."

"Obviously, it can be the case that he will never take his options off the table, but this particular resolution has nothing to do with that from our point of view," Rice said referring to the prospect of military force on Iran.

"This resolution is saying that there need to be strong measures taken against Iran, which we have definitely done," she said after the Bush administration announced new sanctions on Iranian groups, including the Guards.

Rice spoke a day after US President George W. Bush and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed diplomatic strategy towards Iran.

The two leaders appear to still differ over when additional sanctions should be imposed on Tehran, with Merkel preferring to wait until European and UN diplomatic efforts have run their course.

Democratic critics such as presidential contender Barack Obama have said the Senate resolution is a "blank check" for Bush to wage war on Iran, which has refused to bow to international demands to halt its uranium enrichment.

Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have been using bellicose rhetoric against the Islamic republic, with the president warning of the threat of "World War III" if Iran gains the know-how to make nuclear weapons.

Obama reaffirmed Sunday that he would "not hesitate" to open talks with US foes, arguing that the Bush administration was instead "itching to escalate the tensions between Iran and the United States."

"Strong countries and strong presidents speak with their adversaries," he said on NBC television, insisting that Washington should offer not just sticks to Iran "but also the carrots" of enhanced trade and normalized relations.

Democratic White House frontrunner Hillary Clinton has accused Obama of naivete for his willingness to open high-level talks with US enemies.

But Clinton's chief foreign-policy advisor, former UN ambassador Richard Holbrooke, said it was one of Bush's "great failures" to have ignored an Iranian offer of dialogue after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. *AFP*

UNDATED photo of Ceferino Namuncura REUTERS

1st indigenous South American is beatified

CHIMPAY, ARGENTINA—Tens of thousands of faithful turned up Sunday to witness a ceremony honoring Ceferino Namuncura, the first indigenous South American to be beatified by the Roman Catholic Church.

"Ceferino is blessed," proclaimed Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, deputy of Pope Benedict XVI, drawing a thundering ovation from the crowd of onlookers that swelled to 120,000 people for the event, police said.

More than a century after his death in Rome, Namuncura—the son of a Mapuche Indian chief who fought the European settlers in the late 19th century—became the first person to be beatified outside the Vatican, organizers said.

The ceremony took place in this southern Patagonia town 1,000 km south of Buenos Aires.

"The Gospel never destroys the values in a culture, but assimilates them and perfects them," said Bertone, adding that Namuncura "never forgot what it was to be native and tried to be useful to his people."

Often, the first step toward sainthood, beatification is a long process, which in Namuncura's case began in 1944 and culminated in a "miracle" in 2000, when a young Argentine girl was allegedly cured of uterine cancer after praying to him.

Pope Benedict XVI officially certified Namuncura's miracle in July, opening the path to beatification.

The miracle girl, Valeria, her husband and three children were among those who gathered for the beatification ceremony Sunday.

Bertone, the Vatican's secretary of state, celebrated the beatification Mass, which was also attended by Buenos Aires archbishop Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, some 50 bishops from Argentina and Latin America, and by Namuncura's descendants.

Born Aug. 26, 1886, Ceferino Namuncura was the son of legendary Mapuche chief Manuel Namuncura who, after years of fighting the military and white encroachment, surrendered on the advice of a Salesian monk who baptized his son when he was 8.

Ceferino studied at a religious school in Buenos Aires, "so he could be of service to his race" according to historians, and as a priest became renown for his unswerving faith.

He was presented to then Pope Pius X in Rome in 1904, but succumbed to tuberculosis a year later. His remains were taken back to Argentina in 1924 and laid to rest in Buenos Aires. *AFP*

Foreign students added $14B to US economy

WHILE FOREIGN STUDENTS AT American colleges and universities are most often singled out for their scientific and cultural contributions, their growing numbers help make them an increasingly important economic force as well, according to a new report from the Institute of International Education.

In the 2006-07 school year, the report found, international students' net contribution to the US economy was nearly $14.5 billion—up a billion dollars from the previous year, the largest annual increase to date.

"These are foreign people buying an American product, and the Department of Commerce says international education is our fifth-largest service export, bigger than medical services," said Allan E. Goodman, president of the institute, a nonprofit organization that promotes international study. "It's a huge factor in a lot of cities, including New York, where international students contribute about $1.5 billion, more than the Yankees, the Mets, the Rangers, the Knicks, and the Giants combined."

The number of foreign students in American institutions of higher education, from community college to graduate school, increased three percent over the previous school year, to 582,984, the report found. This followed three years of declines, and brought the total back to almost exactly the number of students that came to the United States for the 2001-02 year, just before the Sept. 11 attacks.

Those enrolling in the United States for the first time surged 10 percent last year, a statistic considered important because those students are likely to study in the United States for several years.

Overall, foreign students spent more than $20 billion in 2006-07, about half on tuition and fees and half on living expenses. The report estimated that $14.5 billion came from the students' home countries, mostly from personal and family sources. According to the report, which was largely financed by the State Department and is being officially released Tuesday, fewer than a third got their primary funding from US sources.

The economic contributions grew so quickly last year because of tuition increases, Goodman said, and because more foreign students were in expensive certificate programs that offer few scholarships.

The economic impact of the international students was provided by Nafsa: Association of International Educators, based on the institute's international student data, and made part of the report, Open Doors 2007. *NYT*

No hanging of 'Chemical Ali' till legal row resolved, says US

BAGHDAD–US FORCES will not hand over "Chemical Ali" and two other cohorts of Saddam Hussein for execution until a legal row is settled, the US embassy said Monday, responding to a bitter attack by Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

"There continue to be differences in viewpoint within the government of Iraq regarding the necessary Iraqi legal and procedural requirements for carrying out death sentences issued by the Iraqi High Tribunal," US spokesperson Mirembe Nantongo said.

"Coalition forces will continue to retain physical custody of the defendants until this issue is resolved," she said.

On Sunday, Maliki accused the US embassy of playing an "unfortunate role" in preventing the handover of the three condemned men, who, like other members of Saddam's ousted regime, are in US military custody.

He told a press conference in Baghdad that his government was "determined" that the executions be carried out.

But Nantongo said, "There is still discussion within the government of Iraq over the legal requirements in this case. We are waiting for the government to come to consensus as to what their law requires before preparing a physical transfer."

ALI Hassan al-Majid, also known as "Chemical Ali" AFP

Ali Hassan al-Majid, widely known as "Chemical Ali" for his use of poisonous gas against Kurds; Sultan Hashim al-Tai, Saddam's defense minister; and Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti, his armed forces deputy chief of operations, were sentenced to death on June 24.

They were found responsible for the slaughter of thousands of Kurds in the so-called Anfal (Spoils) campaign of 1988. *AFP*

Australia starts voting as Howard tipped to lose

HOWARD AFP

SYDNEY—VOTERS CAST THE first ballots in Australia's elections on Monday as a new opinion poll showed conservative Prime Minister John Howard heading for a landslide defeat.

The ballots were registered in a tiny outback community as mobile polling teams headed across the vast country to cater for voters in remote areas ahead of election day on Nov. 24.

The votes cast by scores of Aborigines at Kybrook Farm south of Darwin marked the start of early voting for those unable to make it to polling stations on election day and for Australians abroad.

The first to cast a ballot, George Huddlestone, said he had voted for Howard in the last election in 2003 but objected to the government's move this year to seize control of remote Aboriginal communities.

"I voted Liberal last time but Howard, he's changed the rules on us," Huddlestone told the national AAP news agency. "Some things are changing and people are worried for their families, they don't like the changes."

Huddlestone said he hoped Labor leader Kevin Rudd would win the election "and things can go back to normal."

The ballot boxes will remain sealed until the polls close and counting starts, but a series of opinion polls suggest the result is clear cut and the government will be ousted after nearly 12 years in power.

The latest poll, published Monday, showed Labor had gained two percentage points over the past week to extend its lead over Howard's Liberal-National coalition to 55 percent against 45 percent. *AFP*

In US, cell phone straitjacket is inspiring a rebellion

By Laura M. Holson

FIRST COME THE GRUMBLINGS, then the torches and pitchforks.

Consumers have never been happy about their cell phone carriers and the services they provide–or refuse to provide. But they also have hardly the means to do anything, except switch from one carrier to the next.

But a rebellion is brewing in the communications industry that is expected to pit wireless carriers, including AT&T and Verizon Wireless, against Silicon Valley powerhouses like Google. The tussle might undermine the control incumbent companies have over mobile phone consumers by giving them a few weapons to strike back.

The first salvo came last summer with the release of the Apple iPhone, which, with its easy-to-use features, redefined how mainstream consumers view hand-held devices. Last week, Google generated fanfare when it announced plans for the Open Handset Alliance, a consortium of companies working to turn mobile phones into hand-held computers that can offer a variety of applications and services.

In addition, federal regulators are moving to create a more open national wireless network when it auctions off spectrum licenses in January that would allow bidders to build a network free from carrier constraint.

At the heart of the tension between the different camps is whether the wireless network should be open, much like the Internet is today, or remain under the watchful control of companies like AT&T and Verizon Wireless, a joint venture of Verizon Communications and Vodafone. Carriers, who paid billions of dollars to build their networks, are unwilling to open them.

For others, change can't happen soon enough. As such the alliances and partnerships struck now are likely to shape the industry over the next five years.

"It is the battle of the overdogs," said Tom Wheeler, a venture capitalist and former chief of the CTIA, a trade group for the wireless industry. "They are all jostling back and forth to be leaders of the next generation. The question is, 'How do I position myself?' It is a territorial battle." *NYT*

Applying for personal loans the fast and easy way

GE Money Bank's new facility allows consumers to apply for personal loans online

Manila, 08 October 2007 - GE Money Bank, a savings bank, introduces a new and efficient way to apply for a personal loan. Applying for a personal loan will no longer be a tedious undertaking.

No more trips to the bank and anxiety to find out whether you are qualified for the loan. Through this safe and secure online service, you can get a glimpse of your eligibility for a personal loan, in the comfort, privacy and convenience of your home or office.

By simply logging in to the website at http://www.gemoneybank.com.ph and answering a few simple questions, you will see if you are initially eligible for a loan. If you qualify, you will be advised regarding the loan package the bank can extend to you. The facility will also flash a loan offer onscreen, eliminating uncertainties on the loan amount that you are qualified for. It's safe, secure and completely hassle-free! If you decide to pursue the application, you will be directed to an online application form from which you can opt to completely fill out or be contacted instead by a GE Money Bank representative.

GE Money Bank's new channel is initially available for personal loan applications at flexible payment terms and for as low as 1.39% add-on rate per month. The loans offered through this new channel initially include personal loans, but will soon be offered for auto loans and home loans.

This new way to apply for loans with GE Money Bank is in line with the Bank's thrust to offer its clients simply better banking by removing the complications in the banking process for customers.

GE Money Bank

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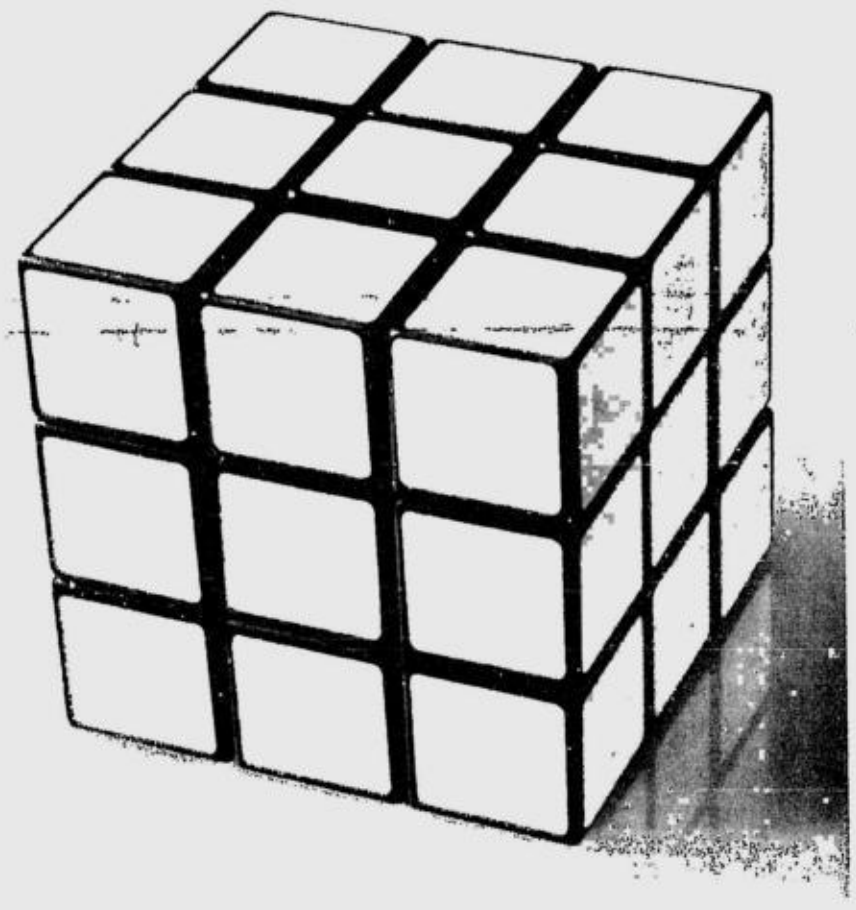

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MUSHARRAF, shown speaking to media, has said that parliamentary elections should be held on schedule, but that emergency rule would remain in place to ensure that the polls would be free and transparent. AP

Musharraf: Emergency rule to last until polls

ISLAMABAD—GEN. PERVEZ Musharraf, the Pakistani president, appeared to yield to intense American pressure on Sunday by restoring parliamentary elections in early January, but he said his emergency decree would last at least through then, immediately raising new questions about the vote's legitimacy.

US officials and Musharraf's main political rival, the opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, endorsed his announcement as a small step. Still, any election held when basic civil liberties have been scrapped could create new credibility problems for Musharraf, who has become increasingly isolated politically, and for Bhutto, who returned to Pakistan from a life in exile to participate in the electoral process.

Many opposition politicians and Western diplomats dismissed the election date as a ruse to ease the outcry against Musharraf's seizure of additional power. They questioned how the country could have fair elections when his security forces have arrested 2,500 civilians, suspended the Constitution, blocked independent news channels and banned public gatherings.

"It's an attempt at a sop," said one Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with diplomatic protocol. "He's looking to see whether simply announcing an election date will placate people."

In another expansion of power, the government announced Saturday that it had amended an army law so that civilians could be prosecuted by military courts. The last time Pakistani civilians faced courts-martial was during the 11-year military dictatorship of Muhammad Zia ul-Haq, which ended in 1988.

In Baluchistan, the government said two politicians from the province, Mir Hasil Bizenjo and Yusuf Mastikhan, would be charged with treason for protesting emergency rule. Muhammad Ali Saif, a government legal adviser, said the burning of army uniforms by political protesters would also be prosecuted in military courts.

Musharraf announced the restored election date at his first news conference since proclaiming emergency powers eight days earlier, a move that has created global alarm about the political stability of Pakistan, a nuclear-armed country that is the most important American ally in the region and where Islamic militants have been expanding their reach. But Musharaff rejected demands at home and abroad to set a date for ending the emergency decree, which has effectively placed Pakistan under martial law.

Combative, defiant and increasingly authoritarian, Musharraf said the decree was precisely what was needed to fight the growing Islamic terrorism threat to the country and "ensure absolutely fair and transparent elections." *NYT*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Lady Eagles** oust FEU tossers; UST on top /A22

SPORTS

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■ **Yao,** McGrady lift Rockets /A23

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is presented a WBC world champion's belt by the organization's president, Jose Sulaiman, in yesterday's opening of the 45th WBC International Convention. The few select recipients of the belt include Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II. LYN RILLON

WBC honors Pacman as 'Champ Emeritus'

By Marc Anthony Reyes and Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

THE WORLD BOXING COUNCIL (WBC) YESTERDAY DECLARED Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao its Champion Emeritus as one of the three biggest sanctioning bodies in the sport officially kicked off its 45th Annual World Convention at the Manila Hotel.

President Macapagal-Arroyo graced yesterday's opening, along with WBC president Jose Sulaiman, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, GAB chair Eric Buhain, WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko, and Pacquiao.

Sulaiman also presented a WBC belt to Ms Arroyo, whom Lim described as "a champion in her own right" in the political arena.

Ms Arroyo was accompanied to the ceremony by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Speaker Jose de Venecia, and Interior Secretary Rolando Puno.

Sulaiman, in his speech, proposed the creation of a WBC boxing gym in the Philippines through the leadership of Pacquiao.

The Filipino ring icon was set to receive his emeritus award last night, according to Pacquiao adviser Rex "Wakee" Salud, who originally proposed that Pacquiao be bestowed the recognition.

Pacquiao is also scheduled to host a dinner for WBC officials and delegates attending the convention, added Salud.

Meanwhile, the boxing hero remained undecided on who his next opponent will be in March.

"I haven't decided on anything," said Pacquiao. "It all depends on the negotiations."

Obviously, he is keeping his options open for his next fight, which Top Rank's Bob Arum said is already set for March 15.

He also didn't make any choice from the lineup of possible foes that include WBC super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez, WBC lightweight king David Diaz and World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titlist Juan Diaz.

Instead, he focused on the WBC occasion, lavishing praise on the organization.

"The Filipino people is proud to see that the WBC has endured and lasted for decades," said Pacquiao. "The history of WBC will not be complete without mentioning the Philippines.'"

The convention resumes today, with seminars conducted for the different regional bodies which are under the WBC umbrella.

Orient-Pacific Boxing Federation president Frank Quill is set to preside his organization's convention starting at 3 p.m. today.

Hapee, Harbour dispute solo lead today

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	4	0
Harbour	4	0
RP Team	5	2
S Mig Coffee	2	2
Toyota Bal.	2	3
Mail & More	1	3
Bacchus	0	4
Pharex	0	4

GAMES TODAY
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Hapee
4 p.m.—Mail and More vs Pharex

FIL-AM GABE NORWOOD GETS A chance to boost his stock further when Hapee and Harbour Centre dispute the solo lead in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

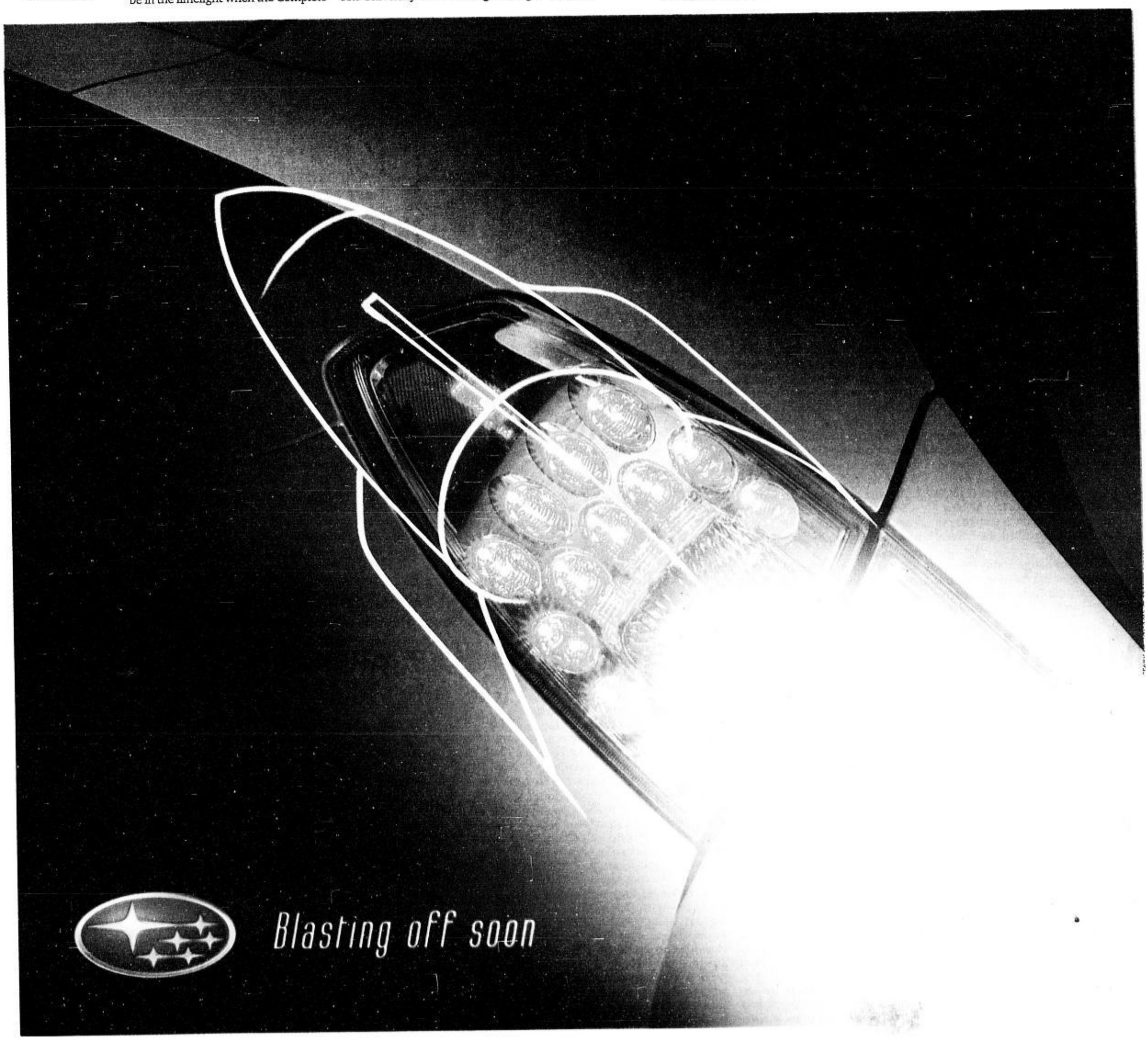
Now an official member of the Harbour-Philippine team, Norwood will be in the limelight when the Complete Protectors and the defending champion Batang Pier collide at 2 p.m.

Hapee and Harbour Centre boast of identical 4-0 slates with Norwood dishing out an all-around game when Hapee downed Bacchus, 95-89, Saturday.

The former starter for George Mason University unloaded a game-high 21 points on top of seven rebounds, six assists and four steals.

The Batang Pier later pulled abreast of the Complete Protectors with a 103-86 rout of Toyota Balintawak.

Mail and More, recent victors over Toyota Balintawak, will shoot for its second straight win at 4 p.m. against Pharex. *Jasmine W. Payo*



Norwood's in; RP five whips Singapore

By Roy Luarca

SINGAPORE—HE FAILED TO JOIN the Harbour Centre-Philippine Team's stint here, but it's certain Gabe Norwood will be around to boost the county's campaign in the Southeast Asian Games in December.

The release of the 6-foot-5 Norwood to the national team by the Hapee Toothpaste management, led by owner and PBL chair Dr. Cecilio Pedro, Monday afternoon provided more joy to the Nationals who routed the Singporeans, 90-42, on Sunday.

The coaching staff, headed by Junel Baculi, welcomed the news relayed by RP assistant team manager Eric Arejola, and said that the former George Mason U standout in the US NCAA will play a vital role in the country's title-retention bid in the Thailand SEAG next month.

Though Norwood plays the point and off-guard positions in the PBL, Baculi said he may also use the slim, high-flying Fil-Am as a small forward.

The Nationals, led by two-time PBL MVP Jason Castro, are playing against the US Navy Selection at presstime at the Singapore Basketball Centre.

Amateur basketball godfather Mikee Romero, who is here to oversee the Nationals' training, was also elated by Norwoods' release.

"It's a big, big development as far as the team is concerned and I'd like to thank the (PBL) board for coming out to help the team," said Romero. "This endeavor is not for Harbour Centre but for the country."

With Jonathan Fernandez knocking in four triples and Patrick Cabahug adding three, the Nationals toyed with the Singaporeans, giving joy to some 500 Filipinos in the gallery.

The Nationals, showing that they have toughened a bit on defense, held the Singaporeans to just nine points in each of the first two quarters en route to a 42-18 halftime spread.

"We're on track and I'm happy to say that we're improving since our last game in the PBL tournament," said Baculi. "*May* communication *na sa loob. May* fluidity *na talaga*."

Back home, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad also expressed his gratitude to all owners and team representatives for supporting the national team.

"As I've said before, PBL teams will always help and deliver if it is for the national cause," said Trinidad. "So everybody agreed to help the RP team."

"He's quick and a very intelligent player so I have high respect for him," said Baculi of Norwood, who carried Hapee to a 4-0 start in the current PBL tournament and saw action for the RP team that played in te Fiba-Asia championship in Japan last July.

Trinidad said that at least two more players will be added to further bolster the Nationals' SEAG chances.

NOTES: The Philippine delegation was treated to a sumptuous dinner at the No Signboard Restaurant Sunday night by Citibank executive Arnold Bengco... The Singapore Slingers are planning to tap former Filipino stars like Vergel Meneses and Bong Alvarez to attract a bigger Filipino crowd... Alex Crisano and Ateneo's Chris Tiu are turning out to be the most popular Filipino players here.

The scores:

HARBOUR-RP 90— Fernandez 14, Belga 12, Alonzo 9, Cabahug 9, Cruz 8, Dela Cuesta 7, Chan 7, Bautista 6, Castro 6, Crisano 6, Vergara 2, Tiu 2, Salangsang 2, Tan 0.

SINGAPORE 42—Jian 14, Matialakan 9, Khoo 5, Folkoff 5, Aw 4, Long 2, Yuh 2, Ju 1, Jie 0, Leong 0.

Quarters: 22-9; 42-18; 63-13; 90-42

SEAG sked favors Filipino cagers

SINGAPORE—IF THE SCHEDULE RELEASED by the Thailand SEA Games Organizing Committee holds true, the Harbour Centre-Philippine men's basketball team would be enjoying a hassle-free defense of the title.

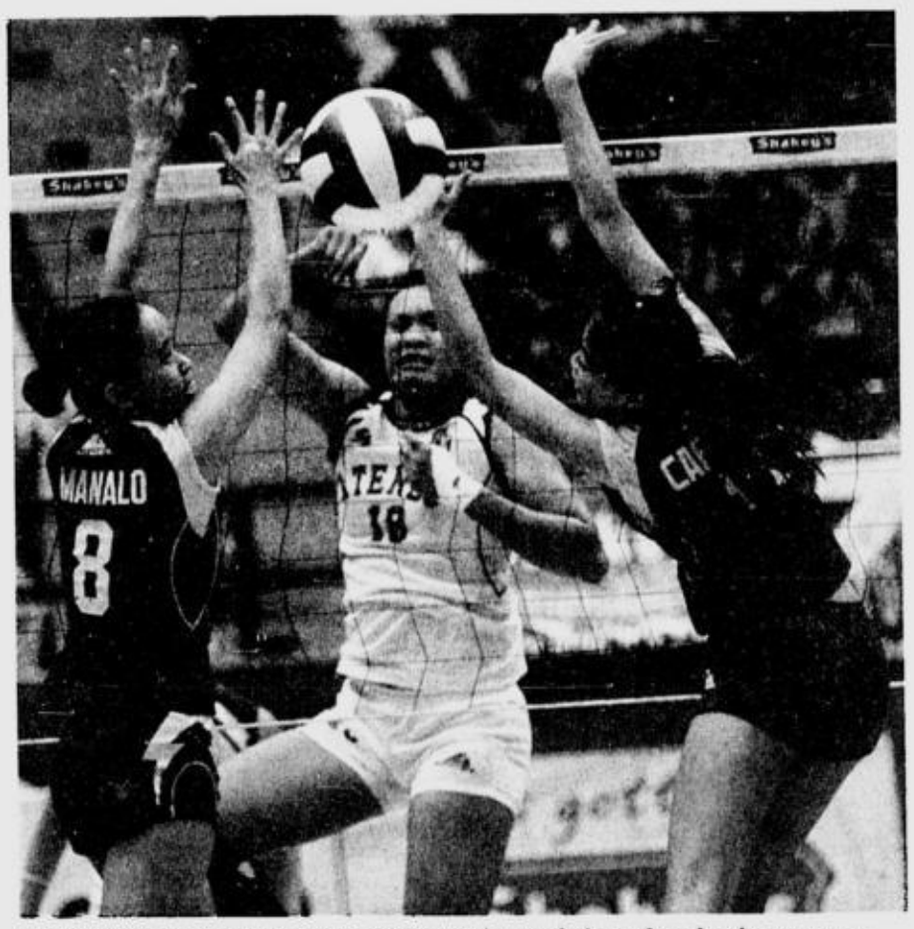
The Nationals will have the lightweight Cambodians as their inaugural foes on Dec. 7 and the dangerous Thais as their last opponents on Dec. 13 in the five-nation, single-round robin basketball competition at the Keelapirom Stadium inside the Suranaree University in Nakron Ratchasima province.

After the 1 p.m. Philippine-Cambodia tussle, Malaysia and Indonesia take the floor at 3 p.m., giving the coaching staff, headed by Junel Baculi, ample time to scout their other key rivals in their title-retention bid.

Host Thailand, which is reportedly beefing up its team with United States based Thais, opens its campaign against Malaysia on Dec. 9 with both teams expected to dish out their best.

"It's just like a lull before the storm," said Baculi. "It will give us time to adjust and to scout our rivals." *Roy Luarca*

GABE Norwood gets go-signal to join the Philippine team. INQUIRER PHOTO



ATENEO'S Thai import Kesinee Lithawat (center) shows her dominance over Fae Eastern U's over Mary Anne Manalo and Josepine Cafranca. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Lady Eagles oust FEU tossers; UST on top

By Romina S. Austria

ATENEO ENDED FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY'S SEMIFINAL HOPE WITH A 25-20, 14-25, 12-25, 27-25, 15-11 win yesterday in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference before a big crowd at The Arena in San Juan.

The victory likewise gave Adamson and La Salle, both toting 3-3 slates, free rides to the next round regardless of the result of their 3 p.m. match today.

GAMES TODAY
(The Arena)
3 p.m.—Adamson vs La Salle
5 p.m.—SSC vs Letran

In the second game, University of Santo Tomas finally grabbed top spot after repulsing erstwhile unbeaten San Sebastian College, 21-25, 25-19, 25-9, 25-16.

The Tigresses will enter the semifinal with a 6-1 card while the Lady Stags, whom they swept in the first conference finals, can equal that mark with a win over winless Letran at 5 p.m.

Ateneo's Thai import Lithawat Kesinee scored the Lady Eagles' last two points, including a serve that the Lady Tams failed to return.

That play capped the Lady Eagles' comeback from a set down in the third and moved them in third spot at 5-2.

FEU, playing sans injured star Rachel Anne Daquis, could have forced a playff with the loser of the Adamson-La Salle tussle had they won.

The Lady Tamaraws ended their campaign with a 2-5 slate.

Kesinee, veteran of two SEA Games, wound up with 29 points highlighted by 24 kills, including one that moved Ateneo within a point from clinching the win in the decider.

Ma. Rosario Soriano scored 17 points for the Lady Eagles who struggled in the second and third sets.

But the Lady Eagles put their act together in the fourth although they had to go through some anxious moments before forcing a deciding fifth set.

San Sebastian, UST, Ateneo, Adamson and La Salle make up the cast in the single round robin semifinal where they carry their respective elimination records.

PBA officially opens search for new head

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOciation begins its search for a new commissioner officially today when the selection committee led by league chair Tony Chua lays down the guidelines for prospective candidates.

The committee has already come up with a list of qualifications for the replacement of Noli Eala, who resigned under a cloud of controversy.

Formed in Macau over a month ago, the selection committee is composed of PBA vice-chair Joaqui Trillo (Alaska), league treasurer Robert Non (Magnolia), former chair Ricky Vargas (Talk 'N Text) and Air21 Governor Lito Alvarez.

The group met at lunch yesterday to describe what they called their "ideal point-man."

PBA officer-in-charge Sonny Barrios, who was also at the meeting, said the committee unanimously agreed that the selection process will be based on a "points system." He said a timetable for the takeover has also been set.

The next commissioner, the committee agreed, should have an excellent "general management perspective" with strong suits in marketing and finance.

The committee has unanimously agreed to put premium on marketing skills and gave it a corresponding 40 points. Barrios said knowledge of financial intricacies is worth 20 points. The remaining points will be scattered among the different traits the next commissioner should possess: Independence, integrity and good public relations.

Barrios said representatives of the league's 10 ball clubs should submit the name of their nominees to him on or before Nov. 23.

Based on the timetable set by the committee and barring any hitches, the league's seventh commissioner will be named not later than Jan. 31 next year.

WBL TITLISTS OFF TO BIG START

The 20th BEST Center Women's Basketball League recently kicked off hostilities with defending champions Community of Learners Foundation and University of Santo Tomas scoring victories at the Xavier Sports Complex. Elementary titlist COLF beat St. Pedro Poveda, 40-26 while college champion UST waylaid UP Los Baños, 47-19. In the high school competitive division, Assumption beat San Beda Alabang, 30-19, (in photo) and Angelicum College upstaged COLF, 37-33.

Marathon finalists set party

A CARBOHYDRATE-LOADING PARty will be held on Thursday at the North Greenhills Club House in San Juan to honor all qualifiers to the 31st National Milo Marathon finals before the 42K race on Sunday, November 18.

Sunday's winners get P75,000 each.

WOMEN NCR QUALIFIERS: Flordeliza Carreon, Christabel Martes, Ellen Tolentino, Geraldine Sealza, Sealand Agana, Daisy Castillon, Jenet Lopena, Ali Smith, Cindy Janoras, Aileen Pacallagan, Isnairah Kasan and Rashel Pena

MEN NCR QUALIFIERS: Bernardo Desamito, Mamerto Corpuz, Rogelio Sarmiento, Rolando Piamonte, Reynaldo Delos Reyes, Joewe Bandoy, Andy Flores, Ronald Despi, Marson Tarcelo, Luis Penid, Darry Bado, Ramonito Panelo, Miguel Lopez, Joseph Rosete, Arsenio Uminga, Angel Delos Santos, Randy Martin, Ruel Arcilla, Benjamin Garcia, Rommel Dela Pena, Flavio Enricoso, Lave Rivera, Roberto Murcia, Francis Padyacan, Ernesto Sumague, Lou Carongay, Alfonso Acepcion, Edwin Diel, Daryl Burdeos, Maximo Ulanday, Narciso Dela Cruz Jr., Virgilio Ferolino, Rolly Farenas, Paulino Bacus, Joselito Reyes, Rufino Domanico Jr., Rocky Taylan, Alex Sanches, Arnel Agao, Bonifacio Geronimo, Graciano Santos, Romy Plaza, Mark Neil Peralta, Wilson Cuarto, Rey Embolode, Gregorio Heray, Vicente Eclipse, Roberto Calamba, Glen Ajero, Julius Bayan, Teodoro Taytay, Rodolfo Desuasido, Rene Raterta, Michel Dangca, Mark Angelo Olivar, Fructoso Flormata Jr., Alexander Refoni, Antony Pelayo;

Cirilo Catamin Jr., Reynald Ruda, Marlou Caidoy, Carlos Onas, Amecito Bautista, Cupid Demafiles Sr., June Val Sta Ana, Joefrine Maldecir, Ricardo Pauig, Rodolfo Ramos, Max Gayula, Dexter Ordona, Victor Ting, Jose Romero, Rex Marquez, Edison Ticson, Wilfredo Enriquez, Edwin Drozco, Jessie Agrezor, Iso Marques, Ignacio Manlangit, Numeriano Barnedo Jr., Mario Averilla, Ronnie Pilarca, Manuel Marcelo, Lorenzo Gregorio, Lawrence Trinidad, Antonio Olegario, Gil Allman, Carmelo Vicuna, Armando Mabutas, Rodrigo Diaz, Valiant Fantiyao, Roberto Estrella, Danny Capina, Sabiniano Laguda, Raphel Raboy, Ronnel Sanama, Rodillo Sabordo, Frederick Babiera, Enrique Balbin, Garry Walitang, Fortunato Rivera, Nick Rodriguez, Alfredo Fototana, Allan Briso, Ricardo Pine, Mino Gajulen, Ben De Villa, Eric Michael Socrates, Oscar Raga, Ramon Ngayaan, Reynaldo Reynoso, Allan Casanas, Pablo Yambot, Nicasio Magno, Rolando Preagola, Armand Gutierrez, Christal Mar Dy, Alvin Casimiro, Jeffrey Pulitana, Alvin Adriano, Rommel Fernandez, Osmalon Agana, Antonio Daga-Ang, Alfonzo Viado, Christopher Mejarito, Renilo Mateo, Anthony Dizon, Michael Ramirez, Arthuro Echalar, Gabriel Guinocor, Arnulfo Dimasuhid, Rodolfo Atos, Florendo Degway, Joycer Lacno, Pablo Vidal, Edriewin De Paz, Victorino Galban, Jonel Bernal, Remelito Brion, Melvin Bolus, Homer Tapit, Romeo Erivera, George Corpuz, Sandy Alentajan, Larry Tarnate, Junnie Pilarca Nonilo Onoya, Carlos Turla, Ildefonzo Cruz, Brigido Gutierrez, Steve Alabar, Joseph Magno and Jorge Tinio.

Golf for scholars tees off at Alabang

THE TEE OFF FOR A SCHOLAR GOLF CUP will be held on Nov. 23 at the Alabang Country Club, chair Amante F. Caronongan of the sponsoring Foundation of the Society of Fellows in Supply Management, Inc. announced.

The charity event, held in cooperation with the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM), is for the benefit of Makati-based scholars handled by the SOFSM.

"The SOFSM's vision is to transform the Philippines as the center of excellence in socially responsible supply management and become the primary source of globally competitive professionals," Caronongan said.

Vicente J. Hipolito, Antonio G. Coronel and Rey Aguilera are in the forefront of the tournament, which opens registration at 6:30 a.m. and tees off at 7:30 a.m.

Participants can win fabulous awards, including raffle prizes. Call Rio at 6384024 or 6346632 for more details. For queries, e-mail at sofsm_rio@yahoo.com.

SPORTSWATCH

Derby at the Big Dome

POPULAR GAME FOWL BREEDERS from different provinces face each another today at the Araneta Coliseum as the 1,463-strong NFGB National Bakbakan 10-stag derby semifinal round starts at 1 p.m.

Girding up for battle are members of the Batangas Breeders Club, Palawan breeders, Laguna Gamefowl Breeders Association, Rizal GBA, United Bulacan GBA, Bicol GBA, United Ilocandia GBA and Viscaya GBA.

Manny Berbano, head of National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders marketing and sponsorship, said the Thunderbird Championship belt will be awarded to the group to which the grand champion belongs.

Breeders guest in PSA

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GAME FOWL Breeders top honchos led by their president Ricoy Palmares and Thunderbird Power Feeds product manager Francis Martinez are today's guests in the Philippine Sportswriters Association weekly forum at Shakey's Pizza in U.N. Avenue, Manila.

The panelists will announce the staging of the finals P15M Bakbakan National 10-Stag Derby.

Also to be discussed is Thunderbird's Philippine Cockfighting Orientation Tour.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Look of Love (3), Daog (6), Kawiliwili (8), Blitzkrieg (4)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Red Gown/Truly Inspired (1), Rogue Knight (6), Mean Machine (5), Prince Chot Chot/Prince Dugo (4), Mike's Zam Lady (2)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Crew Cut (2), Venus D'Goddess (3), Smartly Pants (9), Jade Express (4), Extreme Connection/Silent Operator (5)

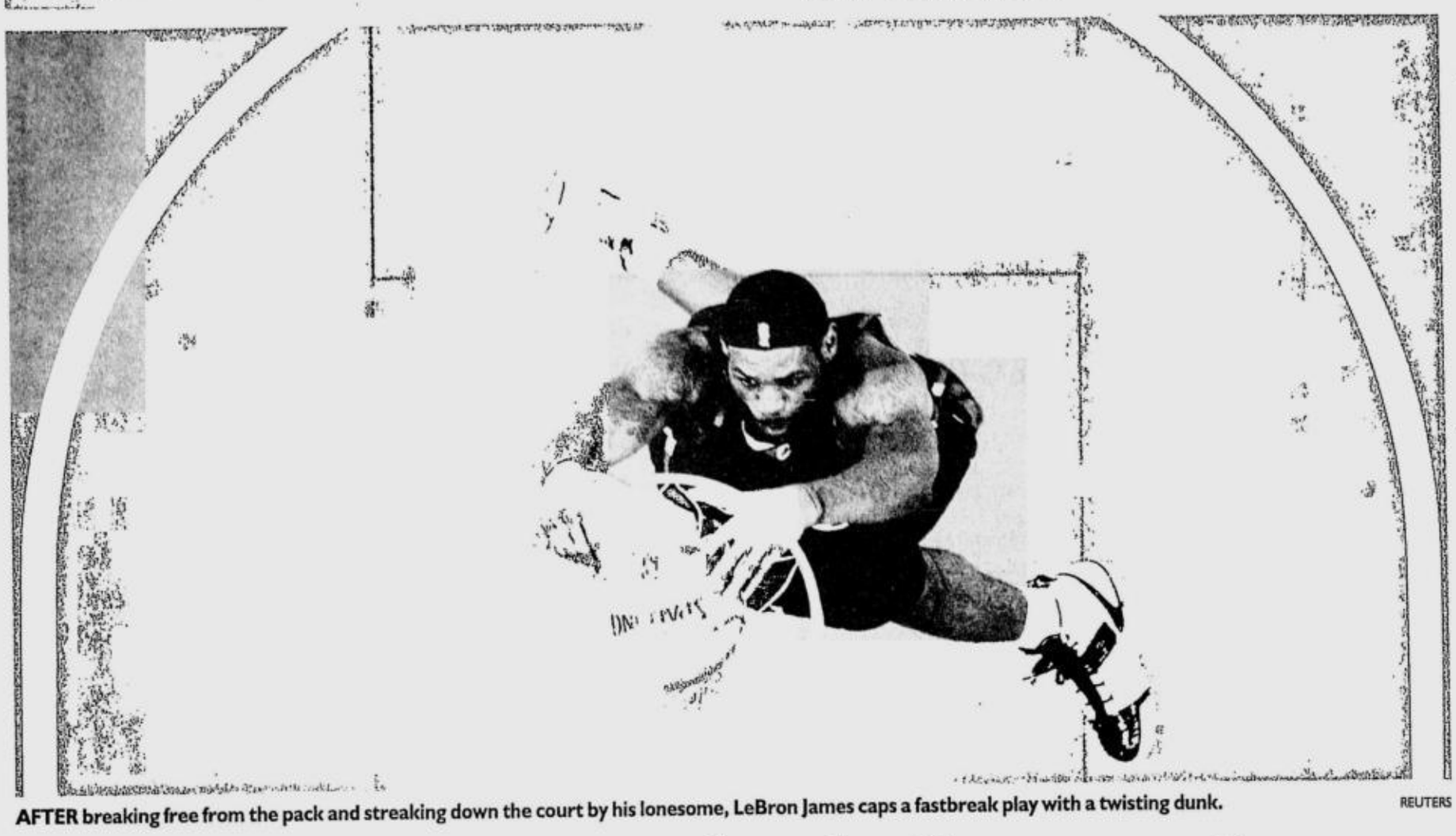
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Memory of Fire (1), Doomstead (5), Extreme Machine (3), Visionary (2)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Devil Rising (7), Lady Inday (8), Bachelor of Arts (9), Maximu Impact/Tigerific (5), Victory Ranger (4)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Without Warning (4), Dancing Blew (2), Angel Sky (1), Honoree (5)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Piroutte (1), Revelation (10), I Don't Dance (8), Golden Lance (2), Infinite Passion (11)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—My Sheikh (7), Lovely Tara (8), Queen Josephine (3), Kapit Bahay (6), Gutsy (2), Stradivarius (5)



AFTER breaking free from the pack and streaking down the court by his lonesome, LeBron James caps a fastbreak play with a twisting dunk. REUTERS

Yao, McGrady lift Rockets

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—Yao Ming capped a 34-point performance with two clutch free throws to rally the Houston Rockets to an 85-82 road win over the Charlotte Bobcats on Sunday.

Yao put the Rockets ahead 83-82 with 20 seconds remaining and Mike James added two more free throws to seal Houston's third straight win.

Charlotte had a seven-point lead with six minutes to play before Tracy McGrady and Yao rescued Houston. McGrady scored 12 of his 26 points in the final period and Yao added six.

"That may be the best one-two combination since (Michael) Jordan and (Scottie) Pippen," Bobcats forward Gerald Wallace told reporters.

Yao hit 13 of 15 field-goal attempts and all eight free throws to go with eight rebounds.

His key free throws came after he rebounded a missed three-point attempt by teammate Rafer Alston and was fouled by the Bobcats' Emeka Okafor.

"When I saw the ball come to me and I said, 'I cannot let this go. I have to grab it'," Yao told reporters. "I was in perfect position."

McGrady connected on just nine of 20 shots but hit seven of nine free throws.

"This was a game that we should have lost, really, because we didn't play particularly well," McGrady told reporters. "But we found some way to keep ourselves in the game and when it mattered most, myself and Yao brought us home."

Matt Carroll paced the Bobcats with 17 points. Jason Richardson and Raymond Felton contributed 16 each. Okafor added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

In other games, it was Washington 101, Atlanta 90; Miami 75, New York 72; Houston 85, Charlotte 82; New Orleans 93, Philadelphia 72; San Antonio 113, Milwaukee 88; Detroit 107, Seattle 103; Cleveland 103, LA Clippers 95

In Atlanta, the Washington Wizards avoided the first 0-6 start in franchise history, beating the Atlanta Hawks behind Caron Butler's 24 points.

All five Washington starters scored in double figures for the first time this season. Antawn Jamison had 23 points and 15 rebounds, and Brendan Haywood added 13 points and 12 rebounds. Gilbert Arenas scored 18 points.

In New York, Jason Williams made the go-ahead jump shot with 19 seconds left, and Miami edged New York for its first victory of the season.

In Philadelphia, David West and Chris Paul each scored 16 points, Bobby Jackson had 12 and New Orleans snapped a two-game losing streak.

In Los Angeles, Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 25 points, LeBron James added 22 as Cleveland rallied to beat the Clippers.

Drew Gooden added 18 points and 17 rebounds for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who needed a fourth-quarter spurt after blowing leads of 11 and 13 points in the game.

In Seattle, Richard Hamilton scored 10 of his season-high 32 points during a torrid first quarter, and Detroit held off a late charge to drop the SuperSonics to 0-7, their worst start ever.

Hamilton capped his night with a 17-foot leaner with 45.9 seconds left to give Detroit a 103-99 lead, after the Pistons squandered a 23-point first half advantage.

Antonio McDyess and Rasheed Wallace both finished with 15 points, and McDyess grabbed 15 rebounds for Detroit.

Seattle was led by Kevin Durant's 19 points and 17 from fellow rookie Jeff Green. *Reuters, AP*

Asean tour targets expansion

SINGAPORE—THE ASEAN TOUR IS STILL in its infancy but after only three events the region's newest circuit is targeting huge development in Southeast Asian golf.

Launched in September with a five-stop calendar, tour executive chair AC Wong expects to double that number next year to fulfill a promise of hosting "one tournament in each of the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries."

"We are extremely pleased with the way things have gone so far," Wong told Reuters after the final round of the Laguna National Asean Championship in Singapore at the weekend.

"One thing that is very encouraging over the last three events is that we had a lot of younger professionals coming forward."

While the Asian Tour snub could be regarded as a setback, the support of its players is a huge boost that will also encourage more local professionals to turn out for their home tournaments.

"As long as we don't have an Asian Tour commitment I will come and play Asean Tour events," Filipino Angelo Que said after winning the $50,000 Laguna National event on 20-under par. *Reuters*

CREAMING the field: Paula Creamer tees off on the way to a rout. AFP

Creamer whips LPGA's finest

MOBILE, ALABAMA—PAULA CREAMER COMpleted a wire-to-wire victory at the LPGA Tournament of Champions here Sunday, firing a four-under-par 68 in the final round to beat Korean runner-up Birdie Kim by eight strokes.

Creamer finished on 20-under par 268 after making a bogey on the final hole, her first in 62 holes, that prevented her from matching the 72-hole tournament record of 267 set last year by Mexican world No. 1 Lorena Ochoa.

"I wanted to break the record. It definitely was a goal of mine," Creamer said. "It is kind of a bummer that I didn't get it. But at the same time I will take it. It's a win. That's a little bit more important maybe."

It was Creamer's fourth career LPGA victory and her first triumph since this year's opener in February at Hawaii. *AFP*

HENIN: A match to remember AFP

Henin rules longest WTA final ever

MADRID, SPAIN—JUSTIN HENIN FINished the toughest season of her career with one of her toughest victories.

That's exactly how she would have scripted it.

Henin rallied to beat Maria Sharapova, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3, Sunday in the longest three-set final in the tournament's history. It was also the top-ranked Belgian's longest match at a tournament-record 3 hours, 24 minutes.

Henin became the sixth player to defend her season-ending championship when Sharapova netted her fifth match point.

"I can't say I played 100 percent but I kept fighting a lot. I played with my heart today," Henin said. "I had to find the resources, mentally and physically, but I think it's a match everyone will remember."

Henin won her 25th straight match to close the season with a 63-4 mark that included a fourth French Open title and her second US Open trophy. Steffi Graf was the last player—in 1996—to win those three titles in the same year. *AP*

Roddick survives scare against Davydenko

SHANGHAI—ANDY RODDICK SURVIVED a scare against Russia's Nikolay Davydenko at the Tennis Masters Cup on Monday to win his opening round-robin match, 6-3 4-6 6-2.

Davydenko's gutsy fightback from a set and a break down sparked a tantrum from the American, who smashed his racket in disgust at his second-set collapse.

But Roddick recovered superbly, storming through the third set to severely dent his opponent's chances at the $4.45 million season-ending event in Shanghai.

Both players have endured almost constant torment at the hands of world number one Roger Federer in the past, making victory in their Red Group opener imperative.

Federer, chasing his fourth Masters Cup title in the last five years, was playing Chile's Fernando Gonzalez later on Monday in the showcase eight-man tournament.

Roddick has won just once in 15 previous meetings with Federer while Davydenko has lost all 10.

World number two Rafael Nadal and fellow Spaniard David Ferrer won their Gold Group openers on Sunday. *Reuters*

ROBY Benito gets off to a good start and powers the R2R-Tuason Racing Kids to the Speedzone 6-Hour Enduro championship.

R2R-Tuason rules Speedzone Enduro

THE R2R-TUASON RACING Kids Team showed crack driving skills and teamwork to humble 10 squads and rule the Speedzone 6-Hour Enduro race recently in Fort Bonifacio .

Roby Benito, Bobby Domingo, Evan Severino and Juha Turalba took turns in delivering the victory for the R2R-Tuason Racing team which completed 369 laps in the six-hour race featuring veteran and more experienced champion karters.

The winning team secured pole position courtesy of new recruit Severino who clocked a fast 58.717 seconds in the qualifying time trials while Benito quickly pulled away from the pack on the very first lap.

After one hour and 45 minutes of driving, Benito gained a one and a half lap lead over the second place team and Domingo stretched R2R-Tuason Racing Kids' lead to three laps.

Severino continued the fight for another one and a half hours and widened the gap to more than four laps over the closest rival before Turalba smoothly cruised to the finish line to complete the job.

"The boys did a terrific job and delivered the strategy just as planned. I'm really proud of them. However, we're not out of the woods yet. We still have a bigger challenge to come in February," said R2R team manager Chito Benito.

Backed by Tuason Racing, TonyKart, HJC Auto Helmets, AIM Racing Gauges and R2R Racing Gear, the team is now preparing to compete in the Speedzone 24-Hr Enduro representing Citibank Savings Inc. in February next year.

Who will unseat Jose Sulaiman?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SINCE THE UNSINKABLE JOSE SULAIMAN took over as president of the World Boxing Council in 1975, the organization has not changed leadership.

"Sulaiman will be there forever," once said the late Justiniano "Jun" Montano, who became the WBC president in 1964. "In order to effect changes, we need to have somebody with influence and the expertise who could stand up and fight the mafia inside the WBC, somebody who commands respect of the boxing world.

"Sadly," added Montano, "there is no one to take up the cudgels. Too much politics is making it very, very difficult for the other challengers, including another Filipino, to unseat Sulaiman."

Sulaiman, a native of Mexico, once served under Montano during his term.

A short, proud man, Sulaiman rose to become the most powerful—and feared—figure in the history of professional boxing. Through the years, Sulaiman has increased his power base.

Still, boxing people have raised many questions: Is the organization playing by its own rules and creating its own champions—and unless a promoter or manager is part of the inner circle, will he have a hard time getting recognition for his boxer?

What about the continued exploitation of boxers? And ill-equipped medical examinations in some WBC member-countries? And the frequency of gross mismatches?

Hosted by the Games and Amusement Board, the WBC is holding its 45th annual convention in Manila.

I am challenging the honorable delegates to make significant progress and not merely pay lip service to boxing reform.

* * *

My hat's off to cool and calculating Daryl Peach of England for nipping hitherto unknown Robert Gomez of the Philippines, 17-15, in their nerve-frazzling finals at the 2007 World Pool Championship Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Even though the Englishman proved me wrong (I had predicted that a Filipino would win this year's edition of the World Pool), I was consoled by the fact that Gomez, known as "Superman" in billiards circles, gave Daryl a helluva time sealing the dramatic victory.

In winning the $100,000 first-prize money, Daryl scored upset wins over two highly regarded Filipinos—last year's champion Ronnie Alcano and hot favorite Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

Gomez's loss was reminiscent of a similar failure during the 2002 WPC in Cardiff when Bustamante also suffered a heartbreaking defeat at the hands of American Earl "The Pearl" Strickland.

At that time, Django almost abandoned the tournament when he learned about the death of his 8-month-old daughter, Mariel, but he decided to continue to play and finish the tournament for the sake of flag and country.

* * *

NOTA BENE. To faithful reader Victorio Vargas of Makati City: Thank you for your kind thoughts. I did mention that former senator Robert Jaworski, who made his PBA debut in 1975 and retired at age 52 in 1999, "was the oldest man to ever play professional, (repeat professional), basketball anywhere in the world."

I wrote about it to stress that the PBA is a "professional league" and not an "amateur tournament" like the Olympics where no cash prizes are handed out…

Calling all San Beda College grade school batch of 1991 and high school batch of 1995. There will be a grand reunion at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1, at Sankalan Grill on Quezon Avenue corner Examiner Street in Quezon City. For details, call or text Mike Isada at 0915-4405088.

SPORTS

GOMEZ: Too many missed opportunities

Crowd proves a bane for Gomez

By Musong R. Castillo

MICHAELA TABB, THAT SHAPELY BRUnette from Britain, will remember the title match of the 2007 World Pool Championship last Sunday, between eventual winner Daryl Peach and Filipino Roberto Gomez, for two very big reasons.

"That was the rowdiest crowd (in a match) I have ever officiated in," Tabb, at 39, regarded as the top snooker and billiard referee in the world, told the INQUIRER between puffs of cigarette just minutes after the showdown at the Araneta Coliseum walkway.

"And I think they (local crowd) lumped on him too much," added Tabb, referring to how the predominantly Filipino gallery backed Gomez for more than four hours.

"There was so much pressure on him (Gomez) and no player was really able to settle down out there."

Tabb admitted to paying attention to two things—the table and the crowd—just to make sure that both players remained focused.

"I had to shout a lot out there, right in the very first rack. No offense (to the crowd)," Tabb said, "but he (Gomez) got all the more nervous after he made mistakes because he could really feel the (crowd's) displeasure."

Tabb said that some foreign players still misunderstand the way the Filipino gallery throws its support loud for a local bet, especially when the stakes are high.

"Some of them (foreign players) talked to me, because they felt that they were being applauded after they bungle a shot or commit a foul," Tabb said. "But I think your (Filipino) crowd is just off in its timing a bit.

Unlike Tabb, the Filipinos obviously liked to forget what happened in the finals, when Gomez threw away one opportunity after the other to lose, 15-17.

The 29-year-old nicknamed Superman admitted to cracking up under pressure.

Meantime, Gomez will have a full year to regroup, check his nerves and learn to respond to a crowd that gives its all every time.

OLYMPIC FEST NAT'L MEET

Reg'l champs in full force

By June Navarro

WITH ITS SIZE AND MIGHT, BAGUIO CITY SHOULD BE A CONTENDER FOR the overall title in the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival national championships that opened yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The Baguio delegation, overall champion of the Central-Northern Luzon qualifying games held in Vigan, Ilocos Sur early this year, is fielding 200 crack athletes from 17 disciplines.

A martial arts and combat sports power in the region, Baguio boasts of the largest contingent from among the 40 local government units participating followed by Laguna's 172 athletes.

While Baguio boasts of its fighters led by Jay Olod of muay and arnis specialist Ana Melissa De Leon, Laguna, the winner of the Bicol-Southern Tagalog qualifying games, will be banking on its swimmers.

Iloilo and Iloilo City, which both ruled the Visayas leg, also showed up at the opening ceremonies presided by Philippine Olympic Committee and POF chair Robert Aventajado with a combined force of 263 athletes.

Also gracing the kickoff rites were POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and sports leaders from the 17 participating national sports associations.

"The POF provides an endgame for these athletes. If they emerge as the best, they could end up as members of the national team," said Aventajado.

Zamboanga Del Norte representative Cesar Jalosjos, House committee chair on youth and sports, declared the games open while the POF Flame was enshrined by Ramirez before an estimated 4,000 athletes and officials.

"We want the athletes to compete in an atmosphere where the Olympic tradition is being observed," said Aventajado.

Football was played in the morning prior to the opening ceremony.

Parañaque whipped Quezon City, 2-0; Muntinlupa tripped Camarines Norte, 3-1; and Cebu thrashed Masbate, 5-1.

Athletics, aquatics and archery will start on Thursday along with muay, judo and wrestling. The baseball gold was automatically awarded to Misamis Oriental by forfeit.

Chess, sepak takraw and karatedo will start today while gymnastics and taekwondo commence on Saturday.

Tourney to remember for a special fan

THE WPC's most popular fan on cloud nine with the championship's most popular female face. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Musong R. Castillo

CALL HIM THE 2007 WORLD POOL CHAMPIonship's No. 1 fan.

Confined to a wheelchair, Macky Chan, a 27-year-old paraplegic, did not let his disabilities stop him from seeing the entire tournament live at the Araneta Coliseum.

Not even the series of qualifying tournaments a week before.

"I love the game because of the excitement," Chan told the INQUIRER. "I love Marlon Manalo, [and] I would have wanted a Filipino to win."

So passionate is Macky in his support for Filipino cue artists that he broke down in tears—right there at table side—when Robert Gomez, the Filipino dubbed in pool circles as Superman, fell to Daryl Peach of England in the championship match Sunday night.

Macky was born with a slight case of cerebral palsy that greatly limited his physical capabilities, according to his father Manoling, who accompanied his son the entire time the latter watched the tournament.

Ernie Fajardo, the president of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, introduced Macky to the sport a couple of years ago, and the youngest of two sons of Manoling and Faye Chan has been hooked ever since.

"He is actually a sports-loving person," Faye said. "He follows every event he can, especially the PBA where he is a Purefoods fan."

Macky became so popular in the tournament that all the players—local or foreign—knew him.

And most everyone who made their way out of the venue passed by where he was situated to say goodbye.

On Sunday night, after the pandemonium of the title match had died down, and just when it seemed that he would take home nothing more than the emotional letdown of the Gomez loss, the tournament's most famous female face—Michaela Tabb—sent him off with a better memory. She dropped by to say goodbye.

"I wish you a lot of luck," the gorgeous Tabb, the top pool and snooker referee in the world, told Macky. "I would certainly want to be back next year to talk with you again."

And the eyes dulled by the Gomez defeat lit up, for it was clear that Macky would still have his tournament to remember.

A SERIOUS Macky, flanked by dad Manoling (second from left, back) and mom Faye, watches as Englishman Daryl Peach pip Roberto Gomez for the WPC crown. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Nervous Superman beats himself

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THIS PINOY SUPERMAN, AFTER ALL, did not have nerves of steel.

That, in a nutshell, sums up the national frustration stirred by the failure of our top remaining bet for the World Pool Championship crown at the Araneta Coliseum on Sunday.

The stinging verdict, honest and brutally fit, was sent by writer Rogelio Ordoñez, the fighting Roger O. of Cavite, who followed the tournament starting with the first break last week.

Roberto Gomez, 29, failed in his greatest battle and there's no need to wonder why the newest RP world pool wonderboy felt extra bitter.

* * *

Imagine Manny Pacquiao facing Eric Morales with sweaty palms and shaky, knocking knees in the second encounter of their famed trilogy.

Pacquiao, you bet, would've been stopped cold right in the first round, no ifs, no buts.

At least, in the case of Gomez, he was able to push the race-to-17 championship *mano-a-mano* to the full distance.

But the more important thing is that, contrary to common belief, Gomez failed not because he was less equipped than Daryl Peach of England, the winner and new champ.

* * *

It's like this. Gomez, after enjoying two days of fame with his 11-0 conquest of the famous Niels Feijen Friday, followed by chilling victories over Kuo Fu-cheng of Chinese-Taipei and Karl Boyes of England Saturday, barged into the finals and was hailed as the newest big name in world pool hereabouts.

There had never been anything like him in the RP pool firmament.

Gomez displayed cool control that saw the vibrant, chesty former newsman from Zamboanga clearing up racks with almost surgical precision.

He was simply super and there were suggestions Gomez could also change the face and accepted style of the Filipino pool superstar.

* * *

They were right. With his hard-earned surgical sharpness, Gomez somewhat took away the agony while bringing back sweet excitement for fans with his painless, often impeccable operation on the felt table.

Gomez, by the way, wore a pink T-shirt in all his previous games in the tournament.

But he suddenly showed up in white Sunday.

Then, once in his seat, he was seen fumbling for something in his bag, maybe his amulet, before the lag.

He was already uneasy, but it was only be after his first miss, the crucial but otherwise easy 7-ball right of the rail, right in the first game when it started to show he was suffering from cold feet.

* * *

"I'm depressed," Gomez moaned from the head table in the post-fight presscon.

He indeed was a crumpled, wasted caricature of frustration, staring absently at the audience, wanting to sink and disappear.

Grilled by newsmen like a nabbed criminal, Gomez at least admitted why all his gifts, skills and all the greatness in his fabulous game suddenly deserted him in the biggest moment of his career.

He said he suffered from an attack of jitters, period.

In short, he had been shaking in his shoes all throughout, an ugly, shameful fact which he tried to hide by breathing hard and licking his dry lips.

Unfortunately for Gomez, his nervousness spilled openly onto the pool table, with the whole world watching.

There was his extremely hopeful nation to cheer and pray for him.

But all Gomez could give back was the agony caused by his uncharacteristic display of shallowness during the well-attended championship.

* * *

Well, in this shameful setback, the spectator had had to be in the loser's shaking shoes to understand the bitter dilemma.

It could happen to the best and the greatest.

"It's a first thing for me. I've never gone this far in a tournament. I feel bad because I wanted to win it for everybody," Gomez explained trying to hold back tears.

It's odd but skinhead Peach, the eventual winner from Blackpool in England, would himself pay tribute to Gomez's superior skills.

In fact, Gomez would also claim that he did not necessarily lose to a better player.

He fumbled, shook, rattled and fell, a Superman suddenly reduced to a Popeye missing his can of spinach, a victim of big, unfounded fears.

There was nothing and nobody to threaten him in the championship.

Gomez lost to his nervous, weaker self.

World squad takes 5-1 edge over RP bets

MANALO: Mere draw

CALAPAN CITY—Rodney Morris and Karl Boyes hurdled their respective Filipino rivals yesterday to lift the World Team to a 5-1 lead at the start of the Kabayan San Miguel Beer World 9-Ball Challenge at the Filipiniana Hotel yesterday.

The 25-year-old Boyes, who hails from Blackpool, England, and a semifinalist in the recent 2007 Philippine World Pool Championships, crushed Antonio Gabica, 7-3, while the 35-year-old Morris, a native of Hawaii, beat 2006 WPC winner Ronnie Alcano, 6-4.

Marlon Manalo had a chance to salvage a win for the host country but Marcus Chamat rallied to forge a 5-5 draw, giving the Swede's Rest of the World team a 5-1 lead.

Still battling at press time were Scott Higgins against Gandy Valle and Darren Appleton opposite Jeffrey de Luna.

The format calls for World players to tangle with their local counterparts in 10-rack matches with a win worth two points and a draw one point. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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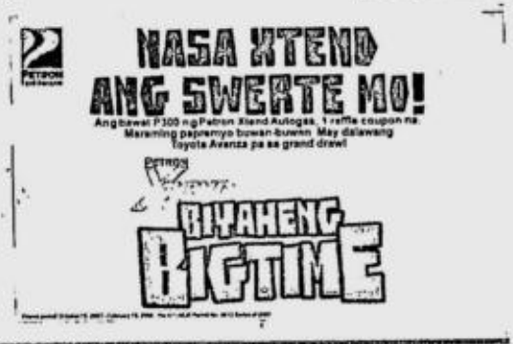


More petroleum price hikes coming

Average increase expected at P3-P3.50 a liter

IN THIS ISSUE

Vista Land allots P4.5B for projects /B2

Strong peso brings little change /B4

DOF seeks to limit perks for Japan, US firms /B5

By Abigail L. Ho

MOTORISTS WILL HAVE ONE LESS REASON TO REjoice this coming holiday season as fuel prices are expected to go up by as much P3-P3.50 a liter in the coming weeks.

In a briefing yesterday, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said oil firms could still raise pump prices by P4 a liter this month.

Following the P1-a-liter increase in gasoline and kerosene prices and the 50-centavos-a-liter adjustment in diesel prices during the weekend, motorists could expect further pump price hikes of between P3 and P3.50 a liter.

To help mitigate the impact of these expected pump price increases, he said the government, through Petron Corp., could explore the possibility of selling fuel to jeepney operators at wholesale prices.

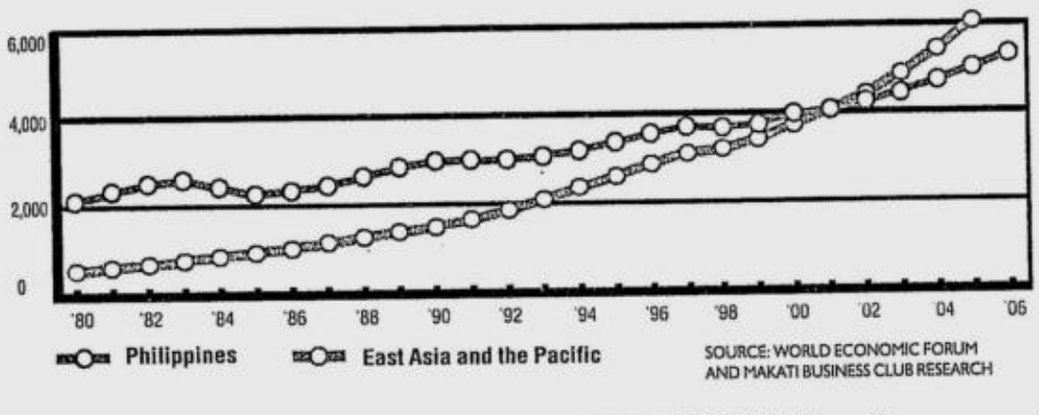
"Petron is the only one that can do that since it's the only local oil firm. All the rest have foreign principals. Maybe Petron can sell to jeepney operators at wholesale prices, but they should pay for this in cash," he said.

Another way to cushion the impact of high oil prices was to turn to other fuel sources, particularly natural gas, he said.

"We should build a common (natural gas) pipeline, which could be used by a number of entities in the industry. But everyone who would use it should pay a certain fee. This

MORE PETROLEUM/ B4

GDP (PPP US$) per capita, 1980-2006



SOURCE: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM AND MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB RESEARCH

Agency eyes improved RP ranking by 2010

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Conclusion)

THE COUNTRY'S CHRONICALLY poor performance in various international competitiveness surveys has alarmed both the public and private sectors, although the urgency seems to be felt more by the latter than the former.

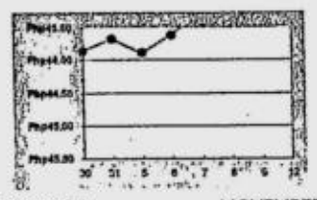
SPECIAL REPORT

During a recent presentation by the National Competi-

AGENCY/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

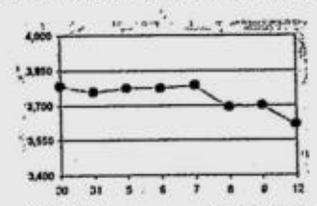


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱43.1 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 12, 2007

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks slump 2.3%

SHARE PRICES PLUNGED 2.3 PERCENT yesterday, dragged down by a selloff on Wall Street on worries over a widening credit crisis, dealers said.

Shares fell across the board, with improved earnings overshadowed by con-

STOCKS/ B4

Prince Charles steps down

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THE NEWS THAT PRINCE CHARLES had stepped down caused the Queen of England, Elizabeth II, great distress. Her son is heir to the throne and although he has been waiting for decades, he has never asked his mother to resign and has shown little interest in being King. Happily, it was a reporter's error. It was Charles Prince who stepped down as chair and CEO of Citigroup after announcing a $6-billion loss on subprime mortgages and warned that it might be necessary to write off another $11 billion.

The therapy has done me good. My leg is better but I still cannot walk very far without backache. It is the exercises I have to do that are killing me. I have to pull my left leg around the back of my neck to touch my right ear and I have to do it 30 times every morning. Babies and practitioners of yoga can do this easily but I cannot. On one occasion, I had to be taken to the emergency ward to be untied.

On Halloween, I went out to dinner with the boys to a French restaurant and got home later than usual. Waiting for me behind the door was my wife holding a broomstick. Quick as a flash, I asked, "Are you cleaning the house or flying off somewhere?"

* * *

Before the subprime mortgage losses surfaced, I have never had any difficulty predicting the tops and bottoms of each cycle. I made some sensational SELL signal calls in May 2006 and 2007, which were followed immediately by huge falls, due to the risk factor reaching its maximum of 100 each time. However, in the last three months Wall Street's behavior has become chaotic and the risk factor is moving around in an unpredictable manner. One day, the DOW drops 360 points, next day it recovers partially then falls another 260 points, as further subprime mortgage losses are announced. This will continue well into next year and bad news will be announced continuously by various banks throughout the world. Nobody knows the extent of the global losses so markets will remain volatile.

Bernanke faced an unusually hostile Senate with one female senator holding him responsible for the value of her house declining from $1 million to $700,000. He kept his cool but I would have told her that the job of the FED is to control the money supply, adjust interest rates and lastly to prevent a recession, not to keep track of the senator's' house.

He admitted that financial market strains and volatility have persisted. Incoming information on the performance of mortgage-related assets have intensified investors' concerns about credit market developments and the implications of the downturn in the housing market for economic growth. He also expressed concern that the rise in energy prices (oil at $97 a barrel) could lead to both higher inflation and weaker levels of economic growth. In addition, further sharp increases in crude oil prices has put renewed upward pressure on inflation, and imposed further restraint on economic activity.

The future market is almost unanimous in expecting another interest-rate cut in December, but I think their opinion is preemptive. Before making any decision, Bernanke will have another six weeks of data. He will know whether the number of jobs created in October was really 168,000 and he will also have the unrevised figures for November. Since the rate cut, there has been a slew of negative news. As already indicated, Citigroup might write off $17 billion and Morgan Stanley announced it would take a $3.7-billion loss in the fourth quarter due to mortgage-related losses. AIG reported lower-than-expected profits, due to debt-related instruments gone sour.

With a substantial part of the S&P 500 companies already submitting their third quarter results, it looks as if there might be zero growth year-on-year. These compare to double-digit growth every quarter for the past five years so there is no doubt that the economy is slowing. Because the financial companies reported first, the final result might be a little better.

As the dollar sinks beneath the waves like the Titanic, investors have been turning to other currencies like the euro, the pound, the Canadian, Australian and Singapore dollars, all at 10- to 50-year highs. Apart from a large federal deficit to finance the war with Iraq costing $285 million a day, there is a trade gap averaging nearly $60 billion a month, half of it with China. The weak dollar keeps down the price of oil and imports, while at the same time making exports more attractive. So the government is not unhappy about the weak dollar, regardless of how it pretends. The S&P 500 index has risen 35 percent during the five-year period in which the dollar has been declining so the two are not connected.

Warren Buffet, Jim Rogers and other financial gurus have abandoned the dollar and have switched into the yuan, gold and a number of commodities, hard and soft. They have also moved their money into the emerging markets but appear to have forgotten the Philippines. Over the last three weeks, foreign selling has averaged P500 million, with P2.8 billion one day due to block sales of FGEN and TEL and P800 million last Friday. This selling should weaken the peso but our currency is the strongest in Asia, having strengthened from 56 to 42.80. Presumably, this is due to record remittances from OFWs.

Investors had better keep on eye on China, which is trying to slow its booming economy. The central bank increased bank deposits for the ninth time this year to take liquidity out of the system but the banks are still lending at record levels. They have also raised the bank rate five times and might continue, as inflation has surged to 6.2 percent, twice the bank's target. China is in its fifth year of double-digit growth and this is being fueled by vast funds flowing into factory investment, real estate and the stock market, which has quadrupled this year. Unless this is brought under control, bubbles will occur in various sectors.

Years ago, China bought parts and assembled them just as we do but manufactured only 10-20 percent. Today, with factories rising everywhere, they import and manufacture 80-90 percent of their exports. This renders them less vulnerable to export dependency but at the same time makes them a greater threat to other Asian countries. Nobody invests seriously in factories here because of bureaucracy, corruption and poor infrastructure. I do not foresee any significant change in the near future. A gradual revaluation of the yuan is essential both for China, America and the rest of the world.

Vista Land allots ₱4.5B for projects

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

VISTA LAND AND LIFESCAPES Inc., the country's biggest homebuilder led by the family of Senate President Manuel Villar, is spending P4.5 billion for the initial phases of new projects that are expected to generate P15.7 billion in sales starting 2008.

In a briefing yesterday, Vista Land president Benjamarie Therese Serrano said bulk of the budget would go to its high-end luxury homes brand Brittany and middle market housing brand Crown Asia.

The company's projects include a 195-unit condominium project dubbed KL Mosaic in Legaspi Village, Makati City; a 3.1-hectare mixed-use development in Quezon City, two leisure homes development in Boracay and Cebu; an expansion of its Cerritos housing project dubbed Cerritos II (six hectares) in Cavite under its affordable Camella Homes brand; a second building of its low-rise residential condominium in Taguig City (809 units) called Pacific Residences II; first high-rise condominium in Makati under the Crown Asia brand in Salcedo Village, and Ponticelli II, an expansion of its fastest selling residential enclave in Cavite.

Under its low-cost business unit Communities Philippines, which offers residential properties outside of Mega Manila, Vista Land is also launching this month two new housing communities in Baliuag, Bulacan (12.7 hectares) and in Naga, Camarines Sur (13 hectares). Mega Manila is Metro Manila and the neighboring provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas and Bulacan.

Real estate revenues from its affordable housing subsidiaries C&P Homes and Communities Philippines, as well as one-time gains from a restructuring of C&P Homes' debt have jacked up the company's net income in the first nine months by 166.7 percent to P2.7 billion from P1 billion a year ago.

Real estate sales revenues grew to P6.2 billion, from P4.5 billion in the same period last year.

A gain of roughly P1.07 billion was booked from the restructuring of C&P Homes' floating rate notes.

CURRENCIES

November 12, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.681431	1.000000	42.8740
Japan	Yen	0.006155	0.009032	0.3872
United Kingdom	Pound	1.424191	2.090000	89.6067
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087564	0.128500	5.5093
Switzerland	Franc	0.606957	0.890710	38.1883
Canada	Dollar	0.722314	1.059996	45.4463
Singapore	Dollar	0.472921	0.694011	29.7550
Australia	Dollar	0.622368	0.913325	39.1579
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.807605	2.652661	113.7302
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.182196	0.267373	11.4634
Brunei	Dollar	0.471285	0.691611	29.6521
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000075	0.000110	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.021633	0.031746	1.3611
UAE	Dirham	0.185620	0.272398	11.6788
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.467500	62.9176
Korea	Won	0.000752	0.001103	0.0473
China	Yuan**	0.091951	0.134938	5.7853
Denmark	Kroner	0.134196	0.196932	8.4433
India	Rupee	0.017424	0.025569	1.0962
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205498	0.301568	12.9294
New Zealand	Dollar	0.522170	0.766284	32.8537
Sweden	Kroner	0.107993	0.158479	6.7946
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021114	0.030985	1.3285

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 9, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 9, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 12, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	58.5	58.5	56	56	1,208,000
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66	66	65	65	1,433,100
748	540	China Banking Corp.	685	685	685	685	1,870
40	16.52	Chinatrust Comm'l Banking Corp.	36	36	36	36	300
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	1,510,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	58	59	56.5	57	1,081,600
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	426,800
68	45	Philippine Savings Bank	61	62	61	62	1,100
39.57	18.7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	26	26	25	25	768,100
66	46	Union Bank of the Philippines	46.5	46.5	46	46	310,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	900,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	2	1.94	2	3,623,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	12.75	1,618,100
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	1,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5	5.1	4.9	5.1	3,766,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,970.00	1,970.00	1,970.00	1,970.00	100
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3	3.05	3	3	7,794,000
3.1	1.3	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	15,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,180.00	1,180.00	2,530
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,350.00	2,360.00	2,350.00	2,350.00	450
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.5	1.5	1.42	1.42	557,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5.1	6,856,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.24	0.33	0.24	0.3	380,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	61	61	60	60.5	995,800
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	79	79	76.5	77	913,300
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	17.25	17.25	16.75	17.25	5,704,400
105.45	25.45	Manila Electric Co.	80	80	76.5	76.5	1,149,200
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.1	7.1	6.9	6.9	39,817,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3	3,436,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.2	25,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.7	1.7	4,391,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.9	5	1,560,000
2.75	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.78	1.8	473,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	25	25	25	10,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	48.5	48.5	46.5	46.5	456,200
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	200,000
3.6	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	192,000
80	52.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	56	56	52.5	53	94,900
88	53	San Miguel Corp. "B"	58	58	53	53.5	704,900
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	180,000
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14.5	14.5	14	14	4,777,700
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	150,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	4.8	4.95	4.65	4.95	2,509,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8.1	7.8	7.8	508,000
7	2.95	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	150,000
2	0.58	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	3,881,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.35	2,478,000
1.34	0.82	Interphil Laboratories Inc. "A"	1	1	1	1	100,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.37	0.39	18,740,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	272,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.135	0.14	97,120,000
1.28	0.24	APC Group Inc.	0.66	0.67	0.62	0.62	5,000,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.5	2.75	2.5	2.75	256,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	3,433,000
0.021	0.0085	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	138,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.2	4.95	5.1	7,170,000
1.38	0.55	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.82	0.82	1,050,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.34	2.38	2.32	2.32	3,636,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	1,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	570	580	570	580	696,950
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	86,200
5.8	1.56	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4	4.1	3.95	4	6,329,000
12	4.75	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	1,925,800
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4	4.05	3.9	3.95	165,000
2.5	0.8	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
8	2.85	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.6	815,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	2	2	1.98	1.98	202,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11	11	11	3,802,800
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	2,000
2.6	1.2	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. "A"	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	940,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.1	6.1	5.5	5.7	1,324,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	6,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.2	0.205	0.19	0.195	466,460,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	4,000,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	367.5	367.5	357.5	360	655,260
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.36	5,550,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	318,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	6,470,000
		PROPERTY					
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.7	82,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.25	16	15.25	16	24,758,000
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.3	1,156,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	271,000
2.04	1.56	Cebu Prop Venture & Dev't Corp."A"	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1,000
2.7	1.2	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	60,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.61	2,300,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.39	2,950,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.74	0.75	14,670,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Golesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	11,300,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.95	0.96	6,160,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.62	1.64	36,087,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	260,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	4	4	3.9	3.95	29,006,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5	5	4.85	4.9	242,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	1,600,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	19.5	19.5	18.75	19	189,500
5.9	1.88	SM Development Corp.	4.15	4.15	4	4	286,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11	11	10.75	10.75	2,238,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.1	2.22	2,007,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	670,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.27	9,920,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	4.8	5.1	4.8	5.1	7,139,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	300
11.75	8	GMA Network Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	319,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.34	4,852,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,680.00	1,685.00	1,675.00	1,675.00	16,200
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,995.00	2,995.00	2,960.00	2,960.00	159,600
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	586,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	1,960,000
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.1	9.1	9	9.1	1,312,000
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.2	8.2	771,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.041	0.041	0.039	0.039	55,300,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.18	2,010,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.26	178,000
0.0725	0.03	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	147,500,000
5.8	1.5	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.75	2.8	1,401,000
		TRANPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	40	40	39.5	39.5	2,176,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	2,000
2.04	1.06	Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.3	18,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	6.6	10	6.6	10	7,100
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.7	22,000
0.98	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.78	0.8	9,250,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.79	0.79	110,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	6,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.25	53,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5	5	4.8	4.95	458,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	234,000
30	8.6	Paxys Inc.	9	9	8.6	8.6	802,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	174,400,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.6	6.6	6.2	6.3	2,310,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.5	2,331,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15	15.25	14.5	14.75	1,873,500
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	11.5	11.5	10.25	10.5	919,800
3.1	0.6	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.06	2.08	94,367,000
0.47	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.4	0.42	0.38	0.39	206,080,000
0.5	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.43	0.45	0.41	0.41	88,070,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	378,100,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	203,800,000
30	2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	24	24	22	22	3,331,100
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	654,300,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	13,201,800
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	47	47	45	45	63,500
1.36	0.48	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.81	740,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.18	2,037,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	730,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	372,900,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	176,500,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	72,100
0.032	0.009	The Philodrill Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.027	380,400,000
		WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
12	7.9	GMA Holdings Inc. (PDR)	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.2	3,382,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Inv Corp. - Warrants	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.75	37,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.008574,000,000	

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	909.13 DOWN	22.05	25,118,350	357,487,750.00
Industrial	4,355.64 DOWN	175.99	176,179,400	1,204,739,190.00
Holding Firms	2,084.14 DOWN	54.98	766,866,010	927,093,535.00
Property	1,615.37 DOWN	33.95	153,352,500	667,304,195.00
Service	1,796.49 DOWN	23.80	229,513,300	653,153,750.00
Mining & Oil	8,448.04 DOWN	466.80	2,756,526,800	665,913,175.00
All Shares Index	2,233.48 DOWN	55.22		
PSEI	3,618.37 DOWN	85.29		
		GRAND TOTALS	4,107,556,360	4,475,691,595.00

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Despite low Aug. figure, 8-mo net FDI flow up 26%

Manufacturing, services sectors get bulk of foreign direct investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES REGISTERED $1.7 BILlion in net foreign direct investments (FDIs) in the first eight months, up by about 26.2 percent year-on-year.

For August alone, however, the net FDI dropped 80 percent from year ago and nearly 82 percent from July to $77 million, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data showed.

Investors were jittery in August as more financial institutions admitted they were hit hard by a slowing US mortgage market, sending equity markets tumbling across the globe.

During the first eight months last year, the net FDI amounted to $1.4 billion.

Unlike portfolio investments which are more volatile, FDIs represent investments in bricks-and-mortar businesses that are usually capital- and labor-intensive. They are considered the least volatile form of financial flows.

The BSP reported that net equity infusion during the first eight months of this year more than doubled from a year ago, with the bulk of the investments going into manufacturing, services, construction, mining, real estate, financial intermediation and agricultural industries. The biggest investments came from the United States, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong and Germany.

In manufacturing, the BSP reported that producers of electronics, health and chemical products, food, automotive sensors and decorative crafts obtained the biggest share of fresh investments.

International courier, information technology development and multimedia service providers were the biggest recipients among the services sectors.

In the meantime, the other capital account—composed of intercompany lending between foreign direct investors and their subsidiaries or affiliates in the Philippines—recorded a $25-million net inflow from January to August 2007. This was, however, lower than the year-ago level by more than two-thirds due to repayment of loans made by subsidiaries to their parent companies.

The reinvested earnings account, while minimal, also posted a net inflow of $21 million for the eight-month period, lower than the $176 million plowed back to the local operations last year.

The BSP noted, however, that the data for 2007 covered only the reinvested earnings of local banks. Reinvested earnings of nonbank enterprises will be recorded when data from financial statements of companies become available, the central bank said.

"A key reason for the strong economic growth in Asia in the first half of 2007, despite the slowdown in exports, was the strong growth in investments," Japanese brokerage giant Nomura Securities said in a recent report.

The Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP), which sums up all the goods and services produced in a given period, grew at its fastest pace in 20 years in the first semester. The second quarter GDP growth was recorded at 7.5 percent following a revised 7.1 percent expansion in the first quarter.

Entrepreneur awards winners known tonight

AN AGRICULTURAL equipment maker, a duck raiser, a junkshop operator, a dried fish producer, a vegetable grower, a furniture maker, a baker, a native delicacy maker and a *balut* producer—they are the finalists in tonight's search for the Citi Microentrepreneur of the Year Awards.

Now on its 5th year, the search for the most outstanding microentrepreneurs across the country culminates tonight in the awarding ceremonies to be held at the Metropolitan Museum, BSP Complex. The program, funded by Citi Foundation and implemented locally by Citi Philippines in partnership with the Microfinance Council of the Philippines and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, honors Filipino microentrepreneurs who serve as shining examples of how dignity, creativity and hard work can transform and uplift the quality of lives. The annual search has helped create awareness and attract support for microfinancing, a long-term solution to the problem of poverty in the country.

The selection of winners rests in the hands of the Citi Microentrepreneur Awards' board of judges composed of BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. (chair), Citi country officer Sanjiv Vohra (co-chair), former Monetary Board member Antonino Alindogan Jr., SM Investments Corp vice chair Tessie Sy-Coson, Ayala Corp. president Fernando Zobel de Ayala, JG Summit Holdings president Lance Gokongwei, RFM president and Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Jose Concepcion III, INQUIRER chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto, Citi regional representative Stacey Morse, AIM president Francis Estrada, and University of the Philippines associate professor Manuel Esguerra.

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Mass transit woes

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNment, holding sway over multibillion-peso deals such as the ZTE contract, are scheduled to tackle today another explosive issue.

It concerns a mass transport project known as MRT-7, started some seven years ago. It is in today's agenda of the Neda Board, chaired by the Lola at the Palace.

In business, you see, they think that this administration is simply dilly-dallying with the approval of that $1.2-billion project in the northern part of Metro Manila.

Three months ago, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza endorsed the project to the Neda Board.

That means that the project already passed the scrutiny of the DOTC, which is the country's highest transport authority.

It should now be awarded to the proponent, the Universal LRT Corp., or ULC, the same group behind the LRT-1 and MRT-3 projects.

Mendoza awarded the BOT contract to ULC, because no other group submitted a counter offer in a "Swiss challenge."

The project now only needs the Neda Board's approval for the next stage, the tedious process known as "financial closing," which may take a year, if you're lucky.

Thus, as things go, construction of the mass railway can only start by 2009. If it does, the MRT line can start running by 2012.

We needed it 20 years ago when traffic was already bad. Today, it has become unbearable!

* * *

THE only obstacle to the final approval by the Neda Board is the issue on additional performance bond of 10 percent of the total project cost. Or about $120 million!

The board imposed such a requirement on ULC only last September.

In other words, the last minute imposition came about only after the DOTC already awarded the BOT project to ULC after the Swiss challenge.

So, ULC argued that the new condition would jeopardize funding for the project. It offered alternative schemes instead, such as promising to the government part of the earnings from the real estate component of the venture.

The Neda Board has yet to decide on the ULC proposals. As things stand, the project is still suffering from paralysis. Uh oh, more traffic!

* * *

THE line stretches from SM North in Quezon City, passing through Commonwealth and Quirino Avenues, all the way to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan.

Part of the project is a 22-kilometer highway, connecting the railway to the North Luzon Expressway in Bulacan.

Based on the BOT proposal, some $2 billion will also be invested in real estate projects at the terminal in San Jose del Monte.

ULC also claims that, this early, business process outsourcing (BPO) firms want to set up call-centers in Bulacan.

Well, the line can serve about 850,000 passengers a day.

That's a lot of people who do not have to take their cars to work to clog up all the thoroughfares in the metropolis night and day, rain or shine.

I mean, what are we waiting for?

* * *

AS of the third quarter of the year, the mid-sized Security Bank beat all other banks in terms of ROE, or return on equity.

Its net income of P1.83 billion in January to September, up 36 percent from last year's, yielded a 20 percent ROE—the highest in the industry for the period.

Not only that, Security Bank ranked No. 1 seller for RP bonds in a survey by the foreign magazine called The Asset.

The bank will receive the award next week during the magazine's second annual Asian bond markets summit.

During the affair, Security Bank's Alan Atienza, will be recognized as one of the top local traders and salespersons of the Philippines.

But anyway, just how did Security Bank do it? Well, based on its published financial statements, the biggest contributor to income was its loan portfolio, which went up to P42.3 billion and provided a hefty interest income of P 3.4 billion.

According to Alberto Villarosa, president and CEO, the bank really set out to build up its loan portfolio (okay, quality loans) by cultivating winners among its customers over the last few years.

And those same customers (mostly small- and medium-size companies) generated additional income for the bank, other than interests on loans. Fee based income of the bank reached P2.1 billion.

In effect, the "other income" offset the drop in its foreign exchange gains, as a result of the appreciation of the peso against the dollar.

For stock market investors, the bank's performance means that earnings per share went up to P5.56, against P4.11 last year.

Which actually explains the 16-percent increase in the bank's share price from P65.50 per share last year to P76.00 per share today.

I mean, really, 16 percent is 16 percent! Much better than the interest earnings on bank deposits, right?

* * *

THE supposed "death threat" received by Ricky and Pia Avanceña, who were said to have fled to Europe fearing for their lives, was a bit of an embellishment, according to the group that reportedly issued the threat.

The group is made up of young people who invested in a mobile phone service provider, selling ring tones and such to subscribers.

Pia is the daughter of the late Senator Raul Roco, while Ricky is the grandson of former President Manuel Quezon.

Pia also used to work for the group. Reports had it that she discovered anomalies in the firm, particularly its practice of forcing ring tones on cell phone subscribers.

After she resigned, she filed cases with the National Telecommunications Commission against her former employer. Reports said that the couple then started receiving death threats.

But the group denied the claim. It even said that they actually were about to file a case against Pia for using the company credit card for trips abroad without authority.

I heard that Pia's mother, senatorial candidate Sonia Roco, also sat down with the group to thresh out the issues.

By the way, the NTC also dismissed the complaints against the group. Hmmm ...

Strong peso brings little change

Currency's recent gains have small bearing on the lives of 50M Filipinos, SWS reports

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

FOR ABOUT TEN MILLION FILIPINO FAMILIES—or about 57 percent of the population—the recent gains of the peso against the US dollar have not changed their well-being, according to a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations.

Also, about one in every three, or around 5 million families (30 percent), say they are better off before the peso gained strength and averaged to about 45 against the dollar this year, the SWS reported.

Only about 2 million families (13 percent) say they are better off now with the peso's strong performance, the Third Quarter Social Weather Survey found.

On the average, each family or household is composed of 5 members.

The survey was conducted from Sept. 2 to 5, when the peso's closing against the dollar averaged at 46.66.

The peso entered the P45:$1 territory in May this year, its strongest finish in nearly seven years at the time. It has recently breached the crucial 43-to-$1 "psychological barrier," when it surged to a new seven-year high on Friday, closing at P42.795.

"While majority of families say their well-being has not changed much, the net effect of the stronger peso is negative in all areas and classes," SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

The net effect is the difference between those who said they were better off now, and those who said they were better off before.

The survey found about 3 million families (17 percent) have at least one family member currently working abroad. Of this number, nearly one in every two families (45 percent) said their family's well-being has not changed with the strengthening of the peso, 37 percent said they were better off before, while 18 percent said they were better off now. The results yielded a net effect of -18.

"There are relatively more OFWs among class ABC families (41 percent), compared to class D (18 percent) and class E (9 percent) families," SWS noted.

The SWS conducted face-to-face interviews with 1,200 household heads, divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The survey has a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points.

Corn production expected to hit 6.74 MT in '07

LOCAL CORN PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED to hit 6.74 million metric tons this year, as farmers allot more areas for the planting of corn, while using technology to increase their yields.

Last year, corn production had reached 6.08 million metric tons.

According to Rosalie Ellasus, president of Philippine Maize Federation, the estimates are highly possible given good weather conditions.

The farmers have already found 150,000 hectares of additional land, which they plan to use for corn, Ellasus said in an interview.

As of the first half of the year, there are 74,144 hectares of land planted to corn.

"These estimates are also based on the fact that more farmers are starting to embrace ... the [use] of hybrid corn," she said.

Ellasus explained that the use of the pest-resistant BT corn for instance, would help farmers increase their yields to as much as 8.2 MT a hectare, while the usual variety would yield only 4.5 MT a hectare.

Although seeds of Bt corn are more expensive, Ellasus stressed that, by using these varieties, you cut back on your production costs by at least 15 percent, given the high costs of fertilizers, inoculants and labor.

A bag of ordinary kernels would cost as much as P3,000, while those of Bt corn may range from P4,600 to P6,000 a bag. But the yields more than make up for the cost, she added.

"We need this technology if we want to increase yields ... corn now is very expensive," she said.

Ellasus said the landed prices of corn had shot up to at least P16 a kilo, due to a huge demand worldwide from the biofuels industry.

Amy R. Remo

Government support for fishermen sought

By Amy R. Remo

A NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIzation has asked the government to compensate fishers who will be affected by a ban on fishing activities during the conduct of oil and gas exploration in Cebu.

In a statement, Arsenio Tanchuling, executive director of the Tambuyog Development Center, said the fishing ban will be imposed by the Japan Petroleum Exploration Company for two months. During that time, the firm will be conducting exploration covering seven square kilometers in the Tañon Strait.

The area covers the municipal waters of Aloguinsan and Pinamungajan in northern Cebu.

"Both the JAPEX and the Department of Energy have so far failed to give assurances in their consultations with stakeholders that they will compensate 1,500 affected fishers in the area," Tanchuling complained.

He said that the 1,500 fishers represent the total number of registered fishers in the municipalities of Aloguinsan and Pinamungajan.

Tanchuling explained that, based on a recent study made by Tambuyog, the two municipalities have an aggregate yearly fishing revenue of about P95 million.

"The opportunity cost of a two-month fishing ban would amount to P16 million, or about P10,600 per fisher," he said.

He also pointed out that this amount does not yet take into account the cost that may ensue from accidents, like oil spills, from the exploration site.

"Although not likely, a major oil spill could affect the whole Tañon Strait, including the southern portion where various dolphin and whale species are found, and which is becoming a major eco-tourism site," he said.

Also, the government has no alternative livelihood plans for fishers, in case the gas field is found to be viable for commercial production, he added.

Exports of fish products to EU drastically drop by 50%

By Michelle V. Remo

EXPORTS OF PHILIPPINE FISHERY products to the European Union has dropped by about 50 percent from 2004 because of the exporters' failure to comply with stricter food safety requirements imposed by EU member countries.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said there are now only 51 companies exporting fishery products to the EU—a drastic decline from the 98 trading firms in 2004.

Consuelo Baltazar, chief of the BFAR's certification department, told reporters that the decline in the number of exporters had partly to do with the EU members' imposition of more stringent importation requirements.

Effective Jan. 1, 2006, Baltazar said, the EU has provided tighter "traceability" and other food safety requirements to ensure that products coming from the Philippines do not contain health hazards.

"Traceability" refers to the capacity of exporters to determine the detailed composition of the raw materials used in their products.

"Some of those that were removed from the list of accredited exporters are reapplying and are trying to meet the requirements," Baltazar said yesterday.

In 2004, marine products exported to the EU amounted to $43.549 million. Officials said that the amount had dropped by a double-digit level by the end of 2006.

Agency eyes improved RP ranking by 2010

From page B1

tiveness Council (NCC), its co-chair Cesar B. Bautista pointed out that the Philippines ranked 49th out of 61 economies in the World Competitiveness Yearbook of the Switzerland-based IMD business school.

It also ranked 126th out of 175 countries examined by the International Finance Corp.'s "Doing Business" survey, and 71th out of 131 economies in the Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum.

Behind these weak numbers is the reality that the country continues to face an uphill struggle to improve the local economy and the lives of Filipinos.

"The challenge is not merely to improve ratings, but to create a better environment for business and our people," Bautista said.

Last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo created the NCC, which brought together representatives of the private and public sectors in an effort to arrest the country's slide in world competitiveness rankings.

Its goals were to help create a competitive Philippines by 2010, instill a culture of excellence in the country and use so-called public-private partnerships (PPP) as the country's development engine.

These goals are no less lofty when translated in tangible terms.

"We want the country to rank in the top third of all major international surveys by 2010, from our present position of being in the bottom third," NCC executive director Virgilio Fulgencio said in an interview.

Difficult task

The task is no walk in the park, however, and there have been many large-scale efforts over the last few decades—initiated by both the public and private sectors—to remedy the country's chronic problem.

According to the latest survey of the Makati Business Club (MBC) conducted for the World Economic Forum, the country rates poorly in the competitiveness of its institutions and infrastructure, with only macroeconomic stability as its saving grace.

"We're talking about our low inflation rate and low interest rates which should basically be credited to the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)," MBC senior research associate Michael Mundo said in an interview. "We're very strong in that department."

The same survey revealed that businessmen were also worried about policy instability, an inefficient government bureaucracy, government instability and coup attempts and tax rates and regulations, among others.

Given the urgent problems in many sectors that make up the overall competitiveness picture, the task facing the NCC seems daunting.

The group's priorities, however, are centered on medium- and long-term solutions to buttress the country's strength as a service economy.

"We are focused on human resource development," Fulgencio said. "We want to improve basic education like English, science and math proficiency."

He noted that no less than the Department of Education is alarmed by the falling test scores of public school students in these fields, all of which are critical to retaining the country's traditional strength in the service industries.

2010 target

The NCC's program calls for a 30-percent score improvement in these fields by 2010, the implementation of teacher support programs to promote the profession and student nutrition programs.

"Education is an important field because our strength in services is founded on this," Fulgencio said.

Other aspects that the NCC wants to focus on is effective access to financing for small and medium enterprises, effective public and private sector management, improved transaction costs and flows, a seamless infrastructure network, and energy cost competitiveness and sufficiency.

For sure, the NCC's game plan is not lacking in boldness, given the failure or similar efforts in the past.

"It is ambitious, but it is doable," Fulgencio said. "My bold prediction is that we're already on our way up."

More petroleum price ...

From page B1

pipeline should bring gas to the highway in Biñan (Laguna) where Shell's refilling station is, and eventually to Metro Manila," he added.

According to data from the Department of Energy, as of Nov. 9, the regional benchmark Dubai crude averaged $86.47 a barrel from only $77.12 last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products soared to an average of $99.23 a barrel in the first nine days of the month from the October average of $88.71.

MOPS-based diesel likewise skyrocketed to an average of $109.01 a barrel in the Nov. 1-9 period, up from an average of $95.47 in October.

Prices of premium unleaded gasoline now ranged between P41.65 and P44.68 a liter, of diesel between P34.43 and P37.45 a liter, and of kerosene between P39.15 and P40.91 a liter.

Stocks ...

From page B1

cerns about the conditions of the US economy, the biggest market for Philippine goods, they said.

The composite index fell 85.29 points to 3,618.37, off a low of 3,608.16, on volume of 4.2 billion shares worth P4.5 billion.

Decliners overwhelmed advancers 125 to eight, while 24 stocks were flat.

It was the index's second big drop in less than a week after last Thursday's 96.16-point slump.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 220 points Friday after major US banks—Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Wachovia—all warned they might book further losses in the fourth quarter from subprime mortgages.

"Cautious trading is expected to continue although investors are increasingly hopeful that the central bank will further cut interest rates on Thursday," said Lawrence de Leon at Accord Capital Equities.

The BSP is now widely seen to be biased to cut key interest rates further, with economists expecting a quarter-percentage-point cut at Thursday's policy meeting.

"This appears to be the most opportune time for the central bank to deliver its second—and we think its last—25-basis-point rate cut, taking the overnight borrowing rate to 5.50 percent," DBS Bank said in a note.

"Once again, as was the case with the surprise cut at the previous meeting on Oct. 4, the need to temper the peso's appreciation—via a reduction in the dollar-peso yield spread—will probably be the main motivation," the Singapore-based bank said. *AFP*

DOF seeks to limit perks for Japan, US firms

Removal of income tax holidays recommended

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS PUSHING for the removal of income tax holidays from the package of incentives granted to American and Japanese firms operating in the country.

A finance official said the granting of income tax holidays to American and Japanese companies was not prudent because the taxes they were spared from paying here were being collected by their respective governments.

"There is no tax sparing in the United States and Japan. If they (American and Japanese firms) don't pay income taxes here, then they are made to pay those taxes abroad (their home countries). The (Philippine) government might as well remove their ITH privileges," the finance official told reporters.

This issue was taken into account in the proposed rationalization of fiscal incentives. The government will generate more revenues if unnecessary fiscal incentives are withdrawn, he added.

American firms account for about 30 percent of foreign investors in the Philippines.

The DOF said there were other ways to attract investors without foregoing much needed tax revenues.

It said several studies have shown that the major considerations of foreign investors in doing business in a country were the stability of the regulatory environment and the level of infrastructure, and that fiscal incentives are the least of their concerns.

A study by the International Finance Corp., a unit of the World Bank that is focused on the development of private-sector investments, recommended the removal of the ITH.

"Tax holidays are among the bluntest incentives instruments most open to abuse. There is little evidence to suggest that the more generous they are, the more effective [they become]," IFC said in the study.

It said the fiscal incentives that the government should retain were the "net operating loss carryover," or Nolco, and the "accelerated depreciation" schemes. These two forms of incentives were much more cost-effective for the government, it said.

With Nolco, companies that post losses in a given year are allowed to deduct the amount of their losses from their tax liabilities in the following years. Under the "accelerated depreciation" scheme, companies are allowed to deduct from their taxable income the amount of depreciation on capital equipment earlier than the time of actual depreciation.

The study of the IFC is in line with the government's desire to trim foregone revenues from incentives that are deemed "redundant." Incentives are considered redundant if the recipients would have invested in the country even without them.

An earlier study showed that more than 80 percent of the incentives granted by the Board of Investments were redundant.

The government has been losing more than P200 billion in potential revenue yearly due to the granting of fiscal perks.

The DOF also wants to limit the number of companies that can avail themselves of incentives. It said incentives should be given only to firms that would locate in the poorest provinces in the country and to those that are export-oriented.

LGU funds to be tapped for educational system reform plans

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL COMPETITIVEness Council is urging local governments to pitch in P17 billion a year for efforts to reform the country's educational system.

Emerico de Guzman, the NCC champion in charge of human resources, said the government and its private sector partners were looking for ways to raise funds from LGUs to support the proposed enhancement of the basic education track and its extension by two years.

This is hoped to bring the domestic education system at par with those in neighboring countries—where a 12-year basic education is the norm.

Reforms are mainly focused on the improvement of proficiencies in English, Science and Math.

De Guzman said the transition to an enhanced 12-year basic education regime needed additional financing.

He said he was looking at a 10-percent share in the LGUs' internal revenue allotment, the securitization of half of the LGUs' special education fund and the issuance of bonds to provide investment capital for education.

Based on 2007 IRA figures, these could raise P16.6 billion.

"With a classroom costing P550,000 each, the amount could build 30,216 classrooms," he said.

De Guzman also said the NCC working group was considering the expansion of the country's preschool program to improve the children's readiness for school and reduce drop-outs in the first three years of elementary education.

He said the group was also pushing for the strengthening of the technical-vocational and entrepreneurship components of the high school curriculum, particularly in industrial arts subjects.

Last October, NCC co-chair Cesar B. Bautista, who represents the private sector in the council, said promotion of the so-called "dual tech" system was one of the priorities in the body's six-pronged approach to help make the country become more globally competitive.

"We have always put HR as our No. 1 concern," Bautista told reporters. "We hope to induce partnership with schools and industries for this."

He said the current biggest promoters of intensive OJT that is geared towards eventual employment were the Don Bosco school system, Meralco Foundation and the Dual Tech foundation.

"So far, these institutions and others like them are producing some 40,000 skilled workers yearly and we hope we could bring this up to 200,000 yearly," Bautista said.

PNOC-EDC nets P5.4B

By Abigail L. Ho

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPment Corp. posted P5.4 billion in net income in the first nine months, up 17 percent from P4.6 billion in the same period last year.

In a statement issued yesterday, the geothermal energy producer attributed the profit rise to significant cost savings and the strengthening of the peso against the dollar.

The cost savings was due largely to the completion of PNOC-EDC's build-operate-transfer contracts for the Upper Mahiao plant in June last year, the Mahanagdong and Malitbog facilities in July and the Leyte optimization plants in September.

The strong peso also helped bolster PNOC-EDC's bottom line, as this effectively reduced associated costs for its remaining build-operate-transfer contracts and foreign loans.

PNOC-EDC booked P1.6 billion in foreign exchange gains in the first three quarters.

In January to September, PNOC-EDC posted a recurring net income of P4.1 billion, up 15 percent year ago.

Net sales for the period dropped 2 percent, however, to P15.5 billion from P15.8 billion last year. This was due to the decrease in the average electricity price per kilowatt-hour (kWh) and the reduction in steam sales volume.

Maritime manning, training meet set for Nov. 14-15

THE TWO-DAY 8TH Asia Pacific Manning and Training Conference starts Wednesday at the Hotel Philippine Plaza.

The event, which will end on Nov. 15, is expected to register 300 participants representing more than 42 of the biggest international maritime companies from 22 countries.

"An unprecedented number of international companies have registered this year," said Aidan O' Donovan, marketing director of event organizer Lloyd's List Events. Among the companies to be represented in the conference are DNV of Norway, Hapag Lloyd of Germany, Finaval Spa of Italy, World Tankers Management of Singapore, Fesco of Russia and Hanseatic Shipping of Cyprus. Companies from China, North Korea, India, Thailand and Nigeria will also be represented.

The event will bring the world's largest maritime companies to Manila, the manning capital of the world, to discuss the issues and challenges affecting the crewing of commercial vessels worldwide.

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3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
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Aga's favorite taste of happiness

ASK ANY UPCOMING YOUNG ACtress who they would like to be paired with and, in a heartbeat, many of them will name Aga Muhlach. Indeed, Philippine entertainment's most celebrated matinee idol is at a point where he is the standard by which talents define "having arrived" in the industry. Aga belongs to that rare breed of actors who serve as role models to the newer ones. He is all about excellence and professionalism, matched with warmth, sincerity, and balance.

With his successes and awards, it would be too easy for Aga to have anything he wants. Yet, just like any regular Filipino dad, the things he enjoys the most are simple yet significant. In his latest TV commercial with fastfood giant Jollibee, the self-confessed family man reveals what produces that ever-so famous smile on his bedimpled face, all while enjoying bites of his favorite fried chicken, the inimitable Chickenjoy.

Filipinos already know about Aga's love affair with Jollibee's best-selling dish. But in the new TV commercial Chickenjoy becomes so much more as every crispylicious, juicylicious, amoy-delicious, and gravylicious bite becomes a total sensory experience. Starting with the aroma and crispy texture on the outside, down to the rich taste of tender and sumptuous chicken meat, eating Chickenjoy becomes a time for Aga to remember the best things in his life: creating memories with his family, seeing different places, and enjoying his various interests.

The commercial cements Chickenjoy's reputation as the country's best-tasting fried chicken that many other brands have tried, and failed, to imitate. Cooked to golden perfection, the spices and flavorings seep through the skin, soaking the meat in that trademark taste. Truly, this "langhap-sarap" signature provides Pinoys like Aga with extraordinary fried chicken and makes a slice-of-life event more meaningful with Jollibee.

METROBANK, XOOM PARTNER FOR ONLINE REMITTANCE SERVICE

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) has forged a partnership with Xoom Corporation, the fastest growing global Internet money transfer company, to enable overseas Filipinos to remit money to their beneficiaries' Metrobank accounts using the Internet. The agreement was signed by (from left) Metrobank executive vice president Carmelita Araneta, Metrobank director Valentin Araneta, Xoom president and CEO John Kunze, and Xoom regional vice president-Asia Pacific region Gene Guitierrez.

UP JMA WINS IN GSK'S AOS ICE EXTREME PARTY CHALLENGE

The UP Diliman Junior Marketing Association won in the recently held Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme Party Challenge where the group brought home the grand prize of P200,000. Seven student organizations from different universities were given seed money worth P100,000 to mount their own Extreme Parties based on the theme 'Extreme Adrenalin Rush'. The competition is not simply about promoting the art of partying, but is also a welcome challenge for the students to get hands-on training in event management and creativity. The extreme parties demonstrated the students' enterprising abilities, organizational skills and artistic talents. The other participating universities were the San Beda Junior Marketing Association, University of the Philippines Diliman's IE Club, Adamson University, University of Santo Tomas, University of Asia and the Pacific, and De La Salle University College of St. Benilde.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Radio, Electrical & Instrument [REI] and Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory [PMEL] Enhancement Project and its ILS Package)

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) Number D-07-05077 dated 15 March 2007, intends to apply the sum of **FORTY TWO MILLION NINETEEN THOUSAND PESOS (Php 42,019,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the corresponding contract for the ***REI & PMEL Enhancement Project.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ BAC1, now invites prospective Bidders for the projects below:

Lot Nr	Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Delivery Schedule
1	GHQ BAC1-MOD-PAF-025-07 • Calibration of PMEL Equipment	Php 10,190,000.00	Within 90 days upon turnover of equipment
	• ILS Package – PMEL Standards Calibration		Shall take effect a year opening of LC
	• Repair of Universal Mock-Ups		Within 90 days after the opening of LC
2	GHQ BAC1-MOD-PAF-026-07 • Procurement of IT Equipment	Php 3,130,000.00	Within 90 days after the issuance of NTP
	• Procurement of Support Eqpt. (Generator Set)		Within 90 days after the issuance of NTP
	• Procurement of Special Tools		Within 90 days after opening of LC
	• Procurement of Accessories		Within 90 days after opening of LC
3	GHQ BAC1-MOD-PAF-027-07 • Procurement of REI Equipment	Php 7,030,000.00	Within 90 days after opening of LC
	• Procurement of Universal Mock-Up		Within 90 days after opening of LC
	• Procurement of Harness		Within 90 days after opening of LC
	• Procurement of Manuals		Within 90 days after opening of LC
	• Conduct of Training		Within 145 days after the issuance of NTP
4	GHQ BAC1-MOD-PAF-028-07 • Procurement of PMEL Equipment	Php 21,670,000.00	Within 90 days after opening of LC
	• Procurement of PMEL Accessories		Within 90 days after the opening of LC
	• Procurement of Manuals		Within 90 days after opening of LC
	• Conduct of Formal PMEL Course		Within 1 year after the issuance of NTP

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). The process for the eligibility, technical and financial checking are described in Sections II, of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from AFP Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php 15,000.00.*** The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **9:00 a.m. November 21, 2007 (Wednesday)** at Silid Panday Pira, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on **9:00 a.m. December 4, 2007 (Tuesday)**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be at **9:00 a.m., December 4, 2007 (Tuesday)** at Silid Panday Pira, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only offers or bids from prospective bidders who are the manufacturers, distributors or suppliers or their duly authorized representatives shall be entertained. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects within the last five (5) years with at least three (3) similar projects having an aggregate contract cost equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC of the project; and the largest of these similar projects must be equivalent to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the ABC of the project to be bid.
10. To facilitate checking of Class "A" eligibility documents, prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the AFP BAC, through the GHQ BAC1 Secretariat, as early as possible but not later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.
11. The AFP reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) **BGEN JERRY V JALANDONI AFP**
Chairman, GHQ BAC1

Office of the AFP Bids and Awards Committee
G/F Bulwagang Syquio
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(PDI – November 13, 2007)

BITS Clips

Acer's Passion for Life 2 promo

ACER'S "PASSION FOR LIFE 2" PROMO PRECedes the highly-successful first salvo of "Passion for Life." For the first "Passion for Life" promo, buyers of Acer notebooks or desktops got an Apacer MP3 player with flash drive. Now, for "Passion for Life 2," buyers get notebook sleeves for every Acer notebook purchase while Acer desktop buyers bring home webcams for purchases made from Sept. 15 up to Nov. 30 only. The premium items are bundled with the Acer products in select Manila retail outlets. For non-bundled items, claiming is at Acer's Head Office located at Unit 3401 PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street (formerly Herrera), Makati City. Customers need to show proof of purchase of the Acer product like the official receipt or sales invoice that shows the date of purchase, plus valid identification like company ID, SSS ID, driver's license, passport, etc. If claimed through a representative, a duly-signed authorization letter from the winner plus a valid ID of the representative needs to be presented in order to claim the prize. Non-bundled items purchased by provincial customers may be claimed at the reseller's store where they bought their Acer product, (allow for transit time). For more details about this promo, visit www.acer.com.ph.

Security Bank launches CheckSure

SECURITY BANK CORP, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST PROFITABLE universal banks, launches CheckSure, the first of a kind facility that seamlessly links a client's checking account to a Security Bank MasterCard. This new service provides Security Bank checking accountholders fast and convenient access to their available credit card cash advance limit to fund their checking account. The transaction is seamless with its pre-authorized, automatic charging feature ensuring unparalleled customer convenience. CheckSure works by linking a client's pre-enrolled current account to his or her SB MasterCard credit card, enabling the client to draw against the credit card's available cash advance limit. CheckSure provides a more convenient option than the traditional cash advance feature inherent in the credit card since those who will avail of the facility can readily issue a check chargeable against the card's available cash advance limit should a need arise. Available for individuals only, this innovative service provides the client with the flexibility and peace of mind to manage personal finances at all times, leaving him or her free to focus on the more important priorities in life whether this be to enjoy family activities, pursue personal passions or work on career priorities. This new facility is yet another example of the innovative offerings Security Bank brings to the market designed with distinct focus on providing its customers with more value-added products that clearly address their growing financial needs and bundles familiar products and services already at their disposal. Enrollments in CheckSure are accepted in all Security Bank branches nationwide. For inquiries, please call 867-6788 or 888- 7337.

National Book Week

THE NATION OBSERVES THE 73RD NATIONAL BOOK WEEK FROM NOV. 24-30 as mandated by Proclamation No. 109 signed in 1936. This annual celebration emphasizes reading as one of the most effective methods of enlightening as many people as possible. This year's theme is "Family Literacy: Reading Begins with Us". The Philippine Librarians Association Inc (PLAI) in cooperation with The National Library (TNL) will spearhead various activities during the week-long observance. To jumpstart the week is an Outreach Program at Baseco Community, Tondo, Manila on Nov 23; Fun Walk and Book Character Parade around Rizal Park and a formal opening ceremony with lawyer Adel A. Tamano, PLM President, as guest speaker at The National Library on Nov 26. Activities to be conducted by the different associations during the week are: Library Management in the Midst of Technological Innovations by ASLP:, LIS Wizard by PATLS:, Outreach Program (Story Telling and Puppet Show) at Payatas, Quezon City by CLAPI:, and Public Librarians: Their Accountability in a Changing Library Environment by PPLLI. Fellowship Luncheon will be held at Kamay Kainan, Ist Level, Trinoma, North EDSA QC. on Nov. 30. For more information, call overall co-chair Belen Vibar of the UA&P Library or Fe Abelardo of the TNL through contact numbers 637-0912 loc. 229 and 525-0926 respectively.

Excitement mounts for Quill Awards on Nov. 14

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATORS (IABC) Philippines will hold the formal awarding ceremonies for the winners of the 2007 Philippine Quill Awards at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, for the year's most outstanding communication programs, skills, and creatives. During the awards night, IABC will launch its latest book, "Winning Hearts and Minds: Outstanding Speeches of Philippine CEOs," and also the 2008 Asia Pacific Communication Conference to be held in Manila and Boracay on March 6-8, next year. Judging for the contest was strictly monitored and tabulated by the leading audit firm in the country, assisted by the IABC Secretariat. The formal dinner for the awarding ceremonies will cost P2,500 per seat, and reservations have to be made on a first-come-first-serve basis through tel. nos. 750-5667, 751-3205 and 810-1631 local 123, or through iabc_philippines@yahoo.com. The leadership of the Philippine chapter is shown by its choice as the site of next February's AsiaPacific judging for the global Gold Quill Awards.

Fuji Xerox Senior Executive Breakfast Forum

FUJI XEROX PHILIPPINES INC, THE DOCUMENT COMPANY, UNRAVELS the secrets to professional document management to executives as it holds the Fuji Xerox Senior Executive Breakfast Forum, a by-invitation event on Nov. 14 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Fuji Xerox regional director for Xerox Office Services, Asia Pacific Global Services division Andrew Jewell will be in Manila to speak during the event and will be joined by professor Rene T. Domingo of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). Among the topics to be discussed by the speakers are "Managing productivity through process improvement" and "The Optimum Office: Look at your office differently and reveal business opportunities to reduce cost, gain control and improve productivity through managed services." The two speakers bring with them expertise and know-how acquired from their vast experience in the area of document management. The informative forum is held in line with Fuji Xerox's commitment to knowledge.

ProductFILES

Spritz escentials from Ananya Fragrances

LOOKING FOR A "signature" scent to spice up your smell this season? Look no further for there is no shortage of fabulous new fragrances from Ananya Fragrances as it introduces two of the world's top-tier brands - IKKS and Rica Lewis. For today's modern woman, IKKS Women is the perfect pick. Highlighted by lemon, mandarin, cardamom, green notes, pineapple and bergamot, IKKS Women also contain jasmine, lavender, cedar, violet and sage. Base hints of oak moss, sandalwood, vetiver, straw, tonka beans, amber and musk give it a deep, sensual scent that captures every heart. IKKS Men caters to the dynamic athletic confident man. It has a distinct aroma of green notes, pineapple, bergamot and lemon; intermingled with lavender, lily of the valley, violet and sage. Basic scents of vetiver, straw, cedar, tonka beans, amber and musk provide it with a masculine appeal. IKKS introduces ATYP'IKKS with Generation Y in mind. It consists of 2 fragrances for the nonconformist: Green Citrus based ATYP'IKKS for Woman and Fresh Fern Based ATYP'IKKS for Man. IKKS has a special unique line for the active attractive teenage years. Available in two variants: the floral fruity IKKS Little Woman fragrance and the woody fruited IKKS Young Man fragrance. Rica Lewis, famous for its jeans, takes on a new twist in scents by introducing its range of perfumes - Rica'ttitude for Him and Her. Rica'ttitude for Him is a fresh scent for the modern dynamic young man. Sporting notes of lavender, rosemary, anise, orange, floral notes, tonka beans, sandalwood and musk, it is a fragrant line which enhances the wearer's personality. Rica'ttitude for Her is a young soft sensual perfume containing top notes of orange, bergamot, and blackcurrant; amalgamated with jasmine, rose, freesia, heliotrope and peach, as well as sexy smell of sandalwood, raspberry, jasmine, amber, vanilla and musk. Available in all Watsons and Shoemart stores nationwide.

Effective way to lose weight

WEIGHT-REDUCtion pill Lesofat arms one with an effective and inexpensive choice in the battle for a leaner and healthier body. Its main component, Orlistat, inhibits enzymes which break down dietary fat molecules. Lesofat works in tandem with a nutritious diet and regular exercise for an effective weight-loss program. Users need not be worried about lack of nutrition as only fat is blocked when the drug is at use. The body continues to absorb essential food components such as protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. A study conducted among obese patients done over a two-year period in the US shows that over 65 percent of patients on Orlistat lost more than 5 percent of their body weight on the first year of taking Orlistat three times a day. Over 39 percent of the subjects who continued using Orlistat on the second year lost 10 percent of the body weight they registered when they enrolled in the research program. The drug was administered in 120-mg dose, and was taken under controlled diet and a required degree of exercise. Weight loss was well maintained during the first year, and those who satayed on Orlistat during the second year maintained their weight. Those who were on Orlistat on the first year and placed on the placebo group in the second year regained most of their weight study showed. As the drug works in reducing ones fatty tissues, it also manages to reduce a patient's risk to hypertension and maintain one's blood sugar and cholesterol at normal levels. Orlistat does not affect one's brain functions. Side effects, if there are any, are minimal.

SOCORRO ANGARA DE JESUS

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 24, 2007 at the age of 78.

Her children and their spouses, **Danny** & **Joan**, **Roland** & **Pinky**, **Maribel** & **Rey Fadrigo**, **Nonie** & **Janet**, **Jojo** & **Tess**, **Ariel** & **Chato**, **Dina** & **Bong Cortez**, **Agnes** & **Mario Jabon**, **Iris** & **Shawn Kelly** and **Irene** & **Raffy Layug**; brothers and sisters, **Letty**, **Gody**, **Liding**, **Eddie**, **Alice**, **Thelma**, **Bella**, **Arthur** and **Lito**; grandchildren and great-grandchild request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at the Sta. Maria della Strada Chapel, Katipunan Avenue corner Pansol Road, Quezon City, from November 16-17, 2007. Masses on both days will be at 7:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Juan Angara Foundation.

Natividad Llanes-Rosal

peacefully joined her Creator on the 11th of November 2007.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at Loyola, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

So dearly loved
So fondly remembered
So truly missed

In loving memory on the 4th Anniversary of his birth to eternal life on November 13, 2003.

BRIG. GEN. (RET.)

JOSE V. SEMBRANO

His wife **NENA**, children **Jiji** and **Hermann**, **Alex** and **Chula**, **Grace** and **Dins**, grandchildren **Tinni**, **Cali**, **Leanna**, **CJ**, **Bianca**, **Mariel** and **Miguel** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

Rodolfo "Ruding" P. Mendoza, M.D.

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 8, 2007 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Elena**; children **Joey** & **Sony**, **Lenette** & **Manjoe**, **Arnie** & **Butch**, **Paulette** & **PI**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 228 J.P. Rizal St., San Roque, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 12:30 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, San Roque, Marikina City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III – Central Luzon
Schools Division of Tarlac Province
San Roque, Tarlac City

DepED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Tarlac Province, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI), apply for eligibility and, if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Construction/repair and rehabilitation of Division Office Building**
Location : **DepED, Division of Tarlac Province, Macabulos Drive, San Roque, Tarlac City**
Approved Budget for the Contract : **Php 14,800,000.00**
Contract Duration : **180 Calendar Days**

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected at bid opening. Late bid shall be rejected.

Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check and Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

The pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract.

The Schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

	Activities	Schedule/Venue
1	Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility, and Issuance of Eligibility Documents	November 5-12, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2	Submission/Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on November 14, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3	Opening of Eligibility Requirements	November 17, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED, Division of Tarlac Teachers Hall
4	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	November 19, 2007
5	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on November 21, 2007
6	Pre-Bid Conference	November 30, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED, Division of Tarlac Teachers Hall
7	Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 12, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED, Division of Tarlac Teachers Hall

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Division Office upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the Division BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php10,000.00 to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Division Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDGARD C. DOMINGO**
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Nov. 6 & 13, 2007)

ISABELA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Isabela II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO II) invites Sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the following:

One (1) unit - Reconditioned Isuzu Forward with 6HE1 Engine with Boom 2.9 tons capacity, Tadano brand or its equivalent 6-wheeler, Tires 8:25 x 16 Brand new, complete with standard accessories, newly painted, brand new batteries.

Bidding Documents may be secured from the PBAC Chairman starting November 5, 2007 by any interested Bidder upon submission of a Letter of Intent, Company Profile and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 3,500.00.

A Pre-Bid Conference wherein sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals (in separate envelopes duly marked as such) will be received by the PBAC at the ISELCO II Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m., November 21, 2007 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of bidders or representatives on the date which shall be set by the PBAC during the conference. Financial proposals will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

All bids submitted must be accompaniedy by a bid security in cash or cashier's check in the amount equivalent to 10% of the amount of Bid. This bid security will be valid for at least 60 days starting from the date of bid opening.

ISELCO II reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or infirmities therein and accept only bid advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **LUZVIMINDA L. PANANGUI**
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO T. CUBANGBANG**
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI - Nov. 7 & 13, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
MANPOWER OUTSOURCING SERVICES, INC. 19/F PBCOM Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Masahito Tamura Japanese	Japanese Support Engineer
MANPOWER OUTSOURCING SERVICES, INC. 19/F PBCOM Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V. A. Rufino St., Makati City	Jin Sagiya Japanese	Support Engineer-Japanese
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Zhuming Chen Chinese	Cook
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Jianyi Li Chinese	Mechanic
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Melvin Beng Chong Chew Singaporean	System Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Mei Kien Ng Malaysian	Accounts Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Ting Zhou Chinese	Customer Service
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Sanbo Ma Chinese	Customer Service
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Frandy Sorip Tan Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Roslina Indonesian	Marketing Officer
NIKKI & CHARMY CORPORATION 490 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kapiligan St., Quezon City	Ming-Li Chen Taiwanese	Audit Consultant
NIKKI & CHARMY CORPORATION 490 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kapiligan St., Quezon City	Tsu-Wen Chang a.k.a. Victor Chang Taiwanese	Consultant for Operation
GAMINGWEB INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ke Yew Loh Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer
SUNSIGN PHILIPPINES INT'L. CORPORATION 37 Stella Maris St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Mi Youn Jun (w/o Park) Korean	General Manager
S-TECH LTD. 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Marek Tamm Estonian	Video Streaming Expert
ESSENSUALS MANILA, INC. G/F 6750 Retail Arcade, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Leonard Anthony Tambourine British	Foreign Stylist
YUAN FEI TRADING CO. LTD. 927-929 Dos Castillas St., Sampaloc, Manila	Guoqi Cai Chinese	Consultant
NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI Unit 902 9/F Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Taizo Matsushita Japanese	Consultant
CITYBEST SEAFOOD GARDEN RESTAURANT INC. 148 T. Morato Ave., cor. Scout Gandia, Quezon City	Yijun Qiu Chinese	Cook
DAESUNG TRANS & TOURS CORP. Unit 209, Clinnan Court, 2205 P. Burgos St., Pasay City	Seho Im Korean	Company Manager
APPLETREE DESIGN CENTER CORP. Unit 802 Globe Telecom Tower 2, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Heemok Lee Korean	Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–November 13, 2007)

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Live Auction Sale
PLANT UTILITIES; PRODUCTION MACHINERY; GENERAL FACTORY STOCKS; IT / LABORATORY / FABRIC / GARMENT TESTING EQUIPMENT; ETC.
Sale Date: Day 1 - Wednesday, 14th November 2007 - Litton Mills Pasig City - 10:30am
Day 2 - Thursday, 15th November 2007 - Litton Mills Calamba-10:30am
Location: Pasig & Calamba, Philippines
Plant Utilities - Forklifts: 17 Forklifts (Operational/Non-Operational) TOYOTA Diesel 2.0T, 2.5T, 3.0T; TCM Diesel/Electric 1.0T / 3.0T; Compressors: ATLAS COPCO (GA-122); SANCO (VS-20); BROOMWADE (Cyclone 222); BOGE/ZANDER/BROOMWADE/SMC Air Dryers; SANCO Air Tank; High Pressure Washer; etc.
Production Machinery - Inspection machines; SHAW TAI TONG Tumble dryer, WHIRLPOOL Washing Machine; Conveyor Approx. 50m
General Factory Stocks - Asst'd Motors, MITSUBISHI, WESTINGHOUSE, FUJI Electric Electrical Panel Boards/Breakers; Generator; Transformer, Assorted Bolts/Nuts; SIEMENS, MITSUBISHI, KLOCKNER MOELLER, FUJI Electrical Parts; Tool Kits; Welding Tools; TOYOTA/TCM Spares; A Large Quantity of Asstd. Bearings; Paint Supplies; V-Belts; Cables; Lubricants
IT Equipment - ACER, PHILIPS, COMPAQ, IBM Computers/Printers
Laboratory Equipment - TOLEDO Mechanical / Electrical Floor Scale; Heater, Funnels/Beakers, Dentist Chair; etc.
Fabric/Garment Testing Equipment - ATLAS Crockmeter; GRETAG MACBETH Spectralight III; Flex Abrasion Tester; Mini Rope Dying Machine; QUICKWASH-RAITECH Fabric Extractor; ELMENDORF TEAR Strength Tester; PEGASUS 5-Thread Edging Machine; Sewing Machines,Tensile Tester; etc
Air Conditioning Units - PANASONIC Split-Type; NATIONAL/CARRIER Window Type
Office Equipment - Whiteboards; Blackboards; Industrial Fans; Polishers; SHARP Facsimile Machine; Thermos; Microwave; Manual Typewriters; Calculators; Photocopying Machines; PANASONIC/ STARDUST Safety Lights
Office Furniture - Conference Tables; Reception Desks; Computer Desks; Side Tables; Safety-Box; Filing Cabinets; Lockers; Steel Cabinets; Grandfather Clock
ON VIEW: Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th November 2007 - 9am - 5pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000 (upon registration)
GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION
Contact: JENNY, JESSA or DANG
Tel: +63 2 822 5555
manila@goindustry.com

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 442-5338

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **MS. JOCELYN S. GACO**, General Manager, **HANBI CONSTRUCTION and DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**, has filed with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of residential condominium units at **HANBI MANSIONS** (A Condominium project) located at Res. Sec. 'D,' Gibraltar Road corner Julian Felipe Street, Lualhati Barangay, Bagûlo City covered by Lot No. 18, RS-380-D/ Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-50153 registered in the name of **PINE RIDGE PROPERTY BUILDERS, INCORPORATION**; and that the registration statement and all papers attached thereto are available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon; and that upon proper application, copies thereof shall be furnished to such person upon payment of the proper fee.

Any person with valid objection in the registration of the project may file his/her objection in writing with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City, not later than two (2) weeks from the completion of the publication.

City of Baguio, Philippines, 18th day of October 2007.

(Sgd.) **REBECCA F. TORRES**
Regional Officer

(PDI–Nov. 13 & 20, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 442-5338

PAUNAWA

Ipinauunawa na si **JOCELYN S. GACO**, Tagapangasiwa ng **HANBI CONSTRUCTION and DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** ay nagharap sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board ng isang panunumpang nakatala para sa bilihan ng mga 'Residential Condominium Units' sa **HANBI MANSIONS (A CONDOMINIUM)** na matatagpuan sa Res. Sec. "D," Gibraltar Road corner Julian Felipe Street, Lualhati Barangay, Bagulo City at sinasakop ng Lot No. 18, RS-380-D/T-50153 sa pangalan ng **PINE RIDGE PROPERTY BUILDERS, INC.**; na ang nakatalang pahayag at ang lahat ng kasulatang nilalaman doon ay nakahanda sa pagsusuri ng sinumang tao na nagtataglay ng legal na interes na naaayon sa batas pagkaraan ng wastong aplikasyon; at ang mga kasulatan ay ibibigay sa nabanggit na tao pagkatapos ng kaukulang bayad.

Sinumang tao na may kapani-paniwalang pagtutol sa pagkatala ng proyekto ay maaaring magbigay ng nilagdaang pagtutol sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City, nang hindi hihigit sa loob ng dalawang (2) linggo mula sa pagkalathala.

Lungsod ng Baguio, Pilipinas, ika-18 araw ng Oktubre 2007.

(Sgd.) **REBECCA F. TORRES**
Regional Officer

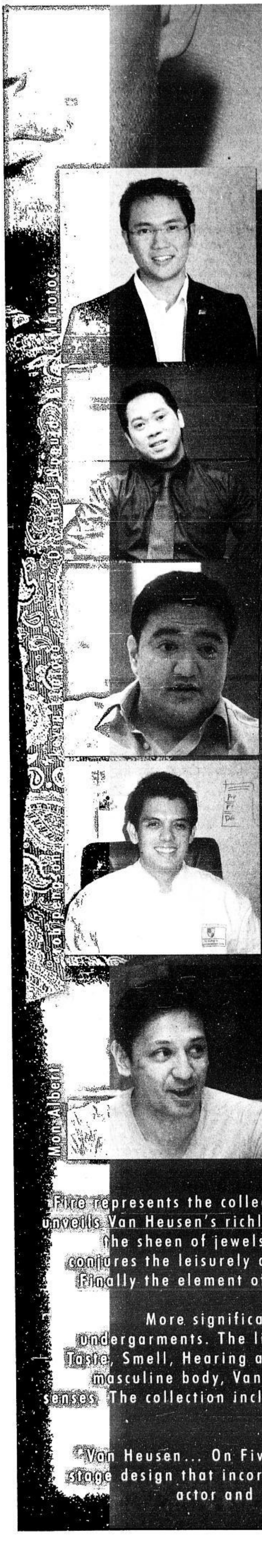
(PDI–Nov. 13 & 20, 2007)

JOB Market Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

VAN HEUSEN

BEST DRESS SHIRT

ON FIRE ON ITS FIFTH YEAR IN MANILA



Van Heusen celebrates its fifth year as a prime force in Manila's fashion scene with a big bash at the Glorietta Activity Center on November 14, 2007. The party, entitled "VAN HEUSEN... ON FIVE," is a fashion exposition, launch and recognition rites rolled into one colorful celebration.

The brand that has endeared itself to men of discriminating fashion tastes since it made its first appearance before the turn of the century, now toasts five of Manila's most successful, fashion-forward men whose visions are helping shape the country's future.

Included in this year's circle of Van Heusen's "Five Accomplished Men" are broadcast journalist TJ Manotoc, TV chef Rob Pengson, top pediatrician Dr. Arnel Nuguid, businessman Raymond Albert, and publisher Kevin Limjoco.

TJ Manotoc is a well-known sportscaster, news anchor and events host who has distinguished himself for his no-nonsense reporting, professionalism and amiable personality. TV chef Rob Pengson, currently the heartthrob of the small screen, holds court as host of the program Chef to Go where he displays his prodigious culinary wizardry.

Dr. Arnel Nuguid became a household name when he personally supervised the care of newborn Baby James, son of Kris Aquino and hardcourt hero James Yap. Dr. Nuguid is well-known among moms who wish to have the best pediatric care for their babies. Raymond Albert heads Tech Trends, a company that links the market with Kodak's latest developments in photo technology. Kevin Limjoco is a dynamic writer, consulting editor and publisher of the upscale C!, Manifesto and Calibre magazines. A self-confessed car enthusiast, he also occasionally acts as a race driver for C!.

"Van Heusen... On Five" also unveils the latest stylish must-wear from the Van Heusen holiday collection. The brand's season's line will be presented to signify the five elements: Fire, Earth, Air, Water and Style.

Fire represents the collection's newest hot colors in fiery shades and sunset blazes, while Earth unveils Van Heusen's richly-hued components inspired by the grandiose of the Indian Empire and the sheen of jewels. Air encompasses the glam series inspired by the '30s and '40s. Water conjures the leisurely appeal of a sea cruise with the colors of blue and white predominating. Finally the element of Style is captured in Van Heusen's print- and color-plenty components.

More significantly, "Van Heusen... On Five" launches the brand's line of luxury male undergarments. The line is aptly introduced in the segment that hails the five senses: Sight, Taste, Smell, Hearing and Touch. Made from top quality materials and designed to pamper the masculine body, Van Heusen's line of undergarments INNERWEAR are indeed a treat for the senses. The collection includes briefs in a variety of fashionable cuts and the classic gentleman's boxer shorts.

"Van Heusen... On Five" uses the latest technology in audio-visual art and employs a special stage design that incorporates the Van Heusen V logo. The event is directed by award-winning actor and event specialist Albert Martinez and choreographed by Nathan de Leon.

COURTESY OF FUENTES PUBLICITY

Nutrition campaign gets rolling literally

Text by Niño Mark M. Sablan
Contributor
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

WITH ALL THE SUPPOSEDly more nutritious food choices in grocery shelves and unlimited Internet access to information on nutrition, you would think parents have it easy nowadays in keeping their kids in tip-top shape.

Unfortunately, the reality is vastly different.

A recent research in selected areas of the Greater Manila Area and Luzon by the Anchor Institute, a network of experts on families and nutrition, found that 45 percent of Filipino children were malnourished.

The study found that people now opted for convenience, choosing to eat out, grab junk food and serve canned, microwaveable or instant food instead of preparing nutritious, home-cooked meals.

Children, the study also found, were learning to drink soda, coffee and artificial fruit juices at an early age.

An unhealthy lifestyle and inadequate knowledge on proper nutrition among parents are resulting in an alarming rate of malnutrition among Filipino children.

Malnutrition stunts physical growth, reduces energy and increases the risk of illness and death.

It prevents children from developing to their full potential.

Anchor Institute launched recently the Anchor Institute Proven Nutrition Check-up Bus to promote proper nutrition and help make the country's children healthier.

Get on the bus

The mobile clinic is a dream-come-true for many parents. First, it goes to where parents and their children are. Second, checkups and consultations are free. No need to buy anything. Third, the bus is equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Inside the bus is the Body Analyzer, an equipment that precisely measures body height, weight, muscle mass, fat mass, protein, mineral and water.

A kid is asked to hop on the treadmill-looking machine for a couple of minutes. After the test is completed, results are printed out and given to the parents.

Qualified nutritionists/dietitians, who are also on the bus, will assess the child's nutritional status and provide parents personalized and specific nutrition program, completely free of charge.

To make sure parents can concentrate on the consultation and fully understand the advice being given, Anchor has set up a play area inside the bus to keep the kids entertained.

Hamish Reid, Anchor senior brand manager, said children needed proper nutrition while parents needed the right knowledge to make sure their children grow healthy.

"By making experts more accessible to everyone, more mothers will learn about proper nutrition for their kids," he says.

"We believe that by doing this, we will be able to help children develop, grow and ultimately reach their full potential. This is in line with our mission of nourishing children and supporting families by providing them the very best in dairy nutrition."

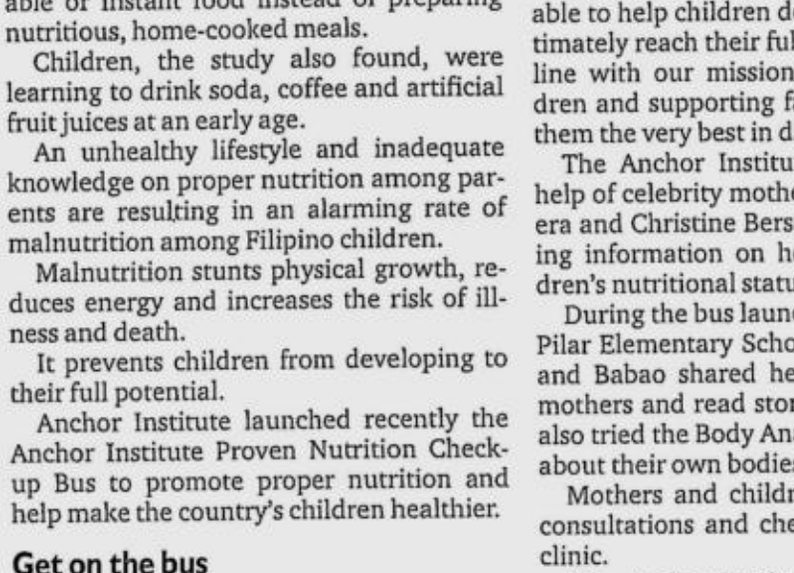
The Anchor Institute also enlisted the help of celebrity mothers Suzi Entrata-Abrera and Christine Bersola-Babao in spreading information on how to improve children's nutritional status.

During the bus launch at the Hen. Pio del Pilar Elementary School in Makati, Abrera and Babao shared health tips with other mothers and read stories to the kids. They also tried the Body Analyzer, learning more about their own bodies.

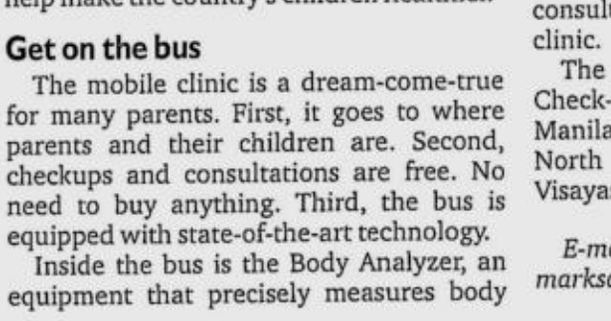
Mothers and children lined up for free consultations and checkups in the mobile clinic.

The Anchor Institute Proven Nutrition Check-up Bus will be going around Metro Manila and South Luzon in November, North Luzon in December, and Visayas/Mindanao in January-March.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com



INSIDE the bus is a play area where children can have fun while parents talk to nutritionists.



PARENTS get nutrition advice from experts.

CELEBRITIES Christine Bersola-Babao and Suzi Entrata-Abrera try the Body Analyzer during the bus launch at the Hen. Pio del Pilar Elementary School in Makati.

THE BEER BELLY REDUCER

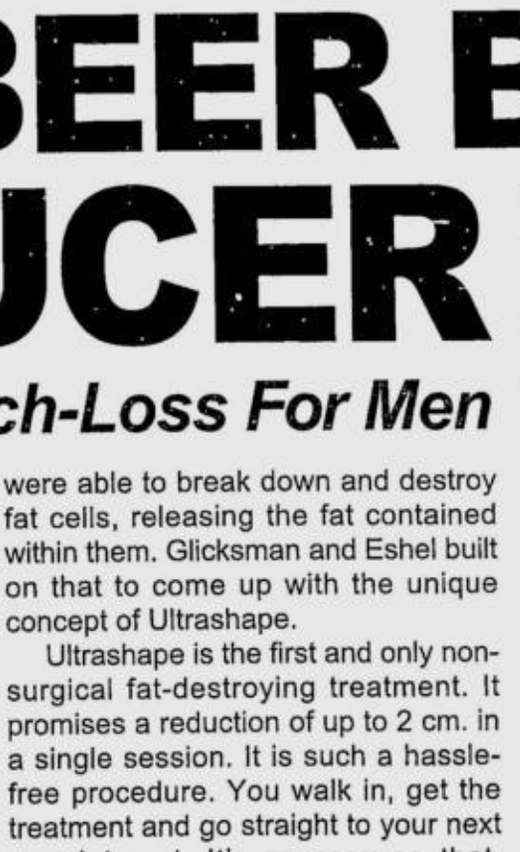
Fast And Easy Inch-Loss For Men

For men who want to lose that bulging and unsightly belly quickly and easily, now there is a solution! Plastic surgeons have invented a machine that can "melt away" stubborn tummy fat in a patient's lunchbreak – **ULTRASHAPE**. This treatment gets rid of unwanted bulges and, unlike liposuction, does not require surgery. It's very effective in removing excess stomach fat, love handles or fat in other areas.

FAST, EFFECTIVE and SAFE, it's the most advanced non-invasive method of fat reduction to date. It works by focusing high frequency ultrasound waves from outside the body to targeted areas. These ultrasound waves break down fat cells without damaging blood vessels or other tissues. The fat cells are then eliminated through natural processes over a period of about 3 weeks, in the same way the body dissipates the discoloration from a bruise.

Ultrashape was founded 5 years ago in USA by Ami Glicksman M.D., formerly a senior plastic surgeon and Yoram Eshel, PhD, MBA, a leading expert in high-power ultrasound technology. When they developed Ultrashape, it was well known that ultrasound waves were able to break down and destroy fat cells, releasing the fat contained within them. Glicksman and Eshel built on that to come up with the unique concept of Ultrashape.

Ultrashape is the first and only non-surgical fat-destroying treatment. It promises a reduction of up to 2 cm. in a single session. It is such a hassle-free procedure. You walk in, get the treatment and go straight to your next appointment. It's as easy as that. Absolutely no anesthesia, no pain and no recovery is needed. Patients can resume their normal activities right after a treatment. It does not have the risks

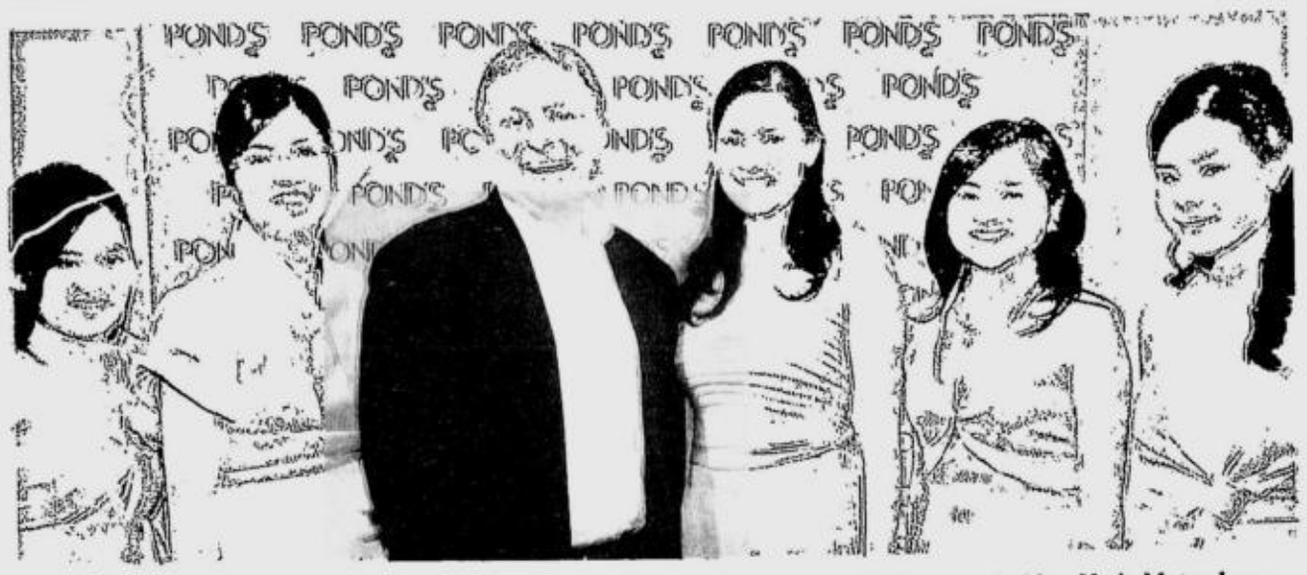


Ultrashape promises an average loss of about 2 cm. in a single treatment.

of liposuction and can be used to effectively deal with problem areas of fat.

Normally about 4 or 5 sessions are recommended to fully achieve the result required. Both men and women who have tried it were impressed by the immediate results after just a single session. Proven effective, Ultrashape is definitely a breakthrough in fat reduction.

Ultrashape is now available at **Marie France FOR MEN**. Call 813-7959 for your free consultation. All consultations and treatments are strictly conducted in private.



POND'S rah! rah! team: Gretch King, Che Villena, Michael Cheney of the Pond's Institute in New York, Mutya Laxa, Renel Cecilio and Meryll Yan

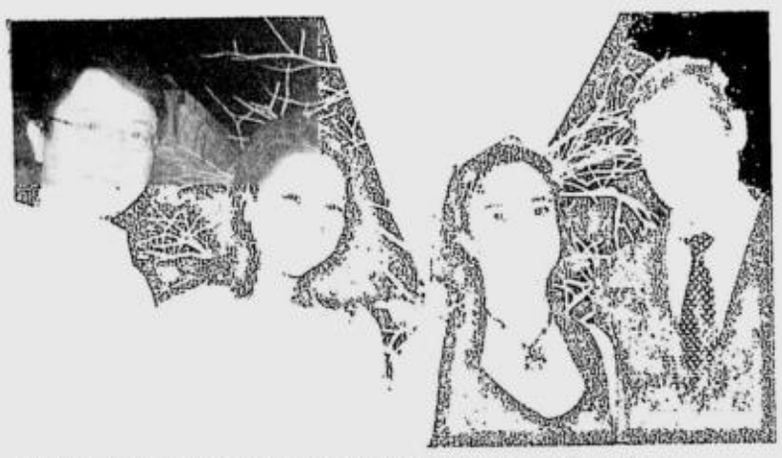
HANDSOME host Derek Ramsey had everyone's attention.

HELENA Belmonte

ANNA Palabyab

MIKA Lagdameo

Flawlessly successful product launch



KEICHI Miki with the brilliant Christine Cunanan, Austrian Ambassador Herbert Jager and Martina Corrado

GENERAL Thelmo Cunanan and his wife, our very own Belinda Olivares C., with Ramon Ang and Gina de Venecia

CONSUL Pierre De Villiers

CATHAY Pacific's Vivian Lo with Grace Glory Go and Christine Cunanan, TraveLife magazine publisher

EUGENE Gobbler

TRAVELIFE Board members Marivic Limcaoco and Maja Olivares-Co with Liza Ilarde

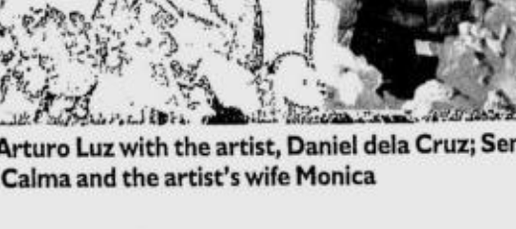
DANIEL dela Cruz

NATIONAL Artist Arturo Luz with the artist, Daniel dela Cruz; Sen. Loren Legarda, mega architect Lor Calma and the artist's wife Monica

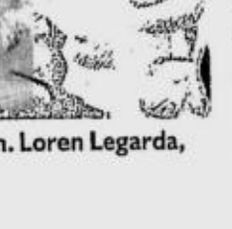
CHETA Monfort with Letty dela Cruz

BOY and Monette Guevarra with Pachot and Toto Mapa

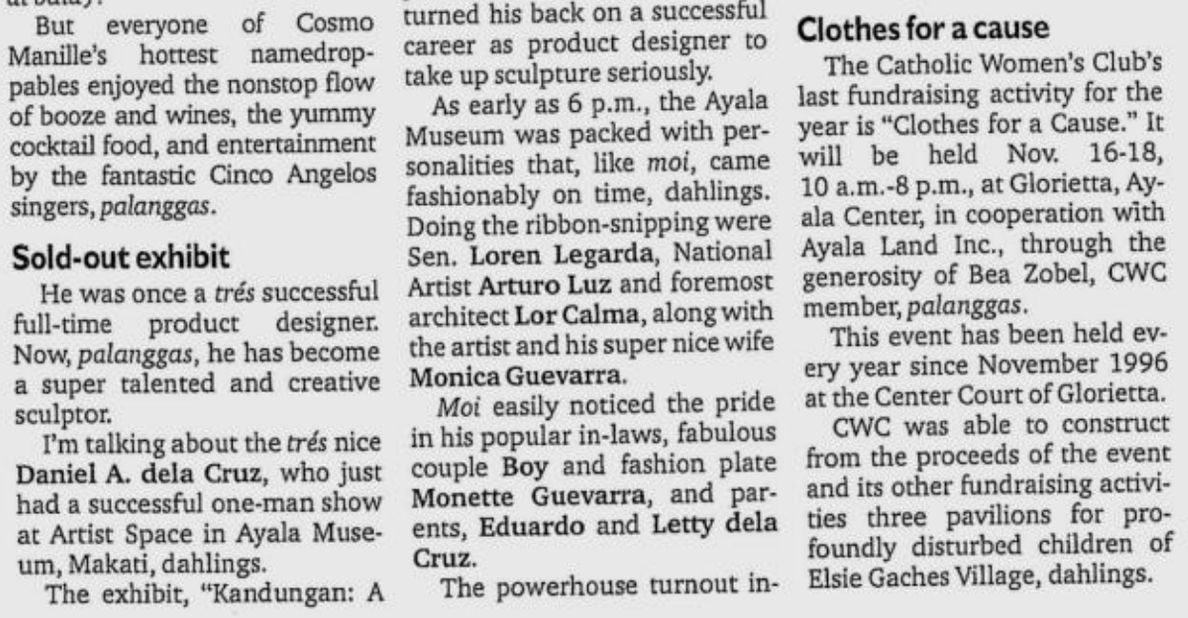
JESSICA Guevarra, Ruffa Gutierrez, and Camille Agbayani



SEN. Frank Drilon, with Daniel's wife Monica and the artist's proud father Dr. Ed dela Cruz



GLASS sculptor Ramon Orlina



SEATED: Nikki Valerio, Mimi Valerio (chair), CWC president Tessie Rodrigo, Terry Tambunting (co-chair), Nene Leonor; (standing) Baby de Jesus, Nonie Basilio, Shirley Uy, Rose Hugo, Maricar Sobrepena, Ericka Markham and Baby Antonio

NEW Unilever HPC development director Len Davies

TRAVELIFE editor in chief Liza Ilarde

UNILEVER's Christophe Joyeux

ANA Sobrepeña of Lifestyle Asia, Joanne Ramirez of People Asia, Mia Borromeo of Town & Country, Pauline Suaco-Juan of Preview, and Anton San Diego of Philippine Tatler

PREVIEW's Agoo Bengzon, Metro's Mel Cuevas and Mega's Vicky Tensuan

POND'S Clint Raypon, Michelle Sta. Catalina and Jemai Ty

KEITH Cua, Ruffa Gutierrez, Camille Agbayani and Jessica Guevarra

MARIVIC Limcaoco, Maja Olivares-Co and Liza Ilarde

Breastfeeding tips for career moms

CHIQUI Roa-Puno and daughter Sabrina

CAREER IS ONE OF THE MOST common reasons why some mothers stop breastfeeding.

But for seasoned sportscaster and television host Chiqui Roa-Puno, finding time for breastfeeding despite a killer schedule is just another challenge to overcome.

Puno, an ANC News anchor and host of two shows, is a wife and mother of three.

But she managed to breastfeed sons Randy, 13, and Nick, 12, when they were babies. She is currently breastfeeding 8-month-old daughter Sabrina.

Puno says getting as much information helped her prepare to breastfeed successfully. Being in touch with other women who breastfed also helped.

They told her about the importance of proper nutrition for a breastfeeding mother.

Puno says a maternal milk supplement especially formulated for breastfeeding women makes it easier for mothers to get all the essential nutrients they need.

Providing breastfeeding women much-needed nutritional boost, the milk formula can help ensure they produce enough nutrient-rich breast milk.

Puno also stresses the importance of a healthy and balanced diet.

She says it is all up to the mother to make her breastfeeding experience successful.

"Breastfeeding, especially for working moms, means having to pump your milk several times a day when you're in the office. To make sure you cope with the demands of your profession, you have to manage your time effectively and preplan," Puno says.

An active lifestyle and proper diet can help breastfeeding moms tremendously. "Just keep in mind that [breast milk] is one of the best things you can give your child," says Puno.

Your Doctor Knows Best

Jaime C. Montoya MD, MSc FPCP, FPCCP, FPSMID

Question:

My husband has been recently diagnosed with TB and I am afraid that I might have been infected. What exactly is this disease?

Doctor Says...

Tuberculosis, commonly known as TB, is an airborne disease caused by a group of bacteria, mainly *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It is a common and deadly infectious disease that can affect any part of your body, but usually affects the lungs (referred to as pulmonary TB).

Tuberculosis is usually spread by breathing in the bacteria when a person with untreated pulmonary TB coughs, sneezes, speaks, spits, or even laughs. TB bacteria are released in the air suspended in tiny microscopic droplets; a single sneeze can release up to 40,000 of these droplets. People with frequent, prolonged, or intimate contact are at the highest risk of becoming infected. On the other hand, TB in other parts of the body is generally not infectious, but can be very serious.

Upon entry of the TB bacteria in a healthy person's body, the immune system usually controls the infection without the person feeling any symptoms, but some TB bacteria may remain inactive in the body for years. This person is said to have **TB infection** (or **latent TB**). In some persons, TB infection will develop into **TB disease** (or **active TB**), which can happen soon after catching TB, or a long time later. This condition makes one person feel sick (experiencing the typical symptoms of TB), and spread the bacteria to other people.

Early symptoms of active TB may be vague, and go unnoticed by the affected person. Symptoms may include unintended weight loss, fever, chills, fatigue, night sweats, and loss of appetite. For some, the disease may either go into remission (halts) or may become more debilitating with prolonged cough, chest or back pain, and bloody sputum (expectorated mucus or phlegm).

Medical evaluation for TB consists of detailed history taking (including any contact with persons suffering from the disease), and physical examination. Depending on the findings, your doctor may order sputum smear and culture (examination of expectorated mucus or phlegm), tuberculin skin test (injection of substance in the skin of your forearm), and/or chest X-ray among others.

TB can be treated and cured in most people with appropriate antibiotic therapy. Those with TB infection and TB disease are treated with antibiotics to kill the TB bacteria. Treatment usually combines several antibiotics that are taken together for at least 6 months, sometimes for as long as 12 months. People who do not take all the required medications, or irregularly take the TB drugs, or do not adhere to the prescribed duration of treatment, can become sick again and spread TB to others. Moreover, when people do not take all the medicines or skip times when they are supposed to take them, the TB bacteria evolves, eventually rendering the medicines useless against the disease. The person now is said to have a drug-resistant TB. This type of TB is difficult to treat—physicians prescribe different drugs (which are very expensive) and increase the length of treatment (even up to two years). Thus, it is very important to regularly take your medicines and finish the entire duration of treatment to prevent the emergence of drug resistant TB bacteria. Your doctor may also advice you about Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS), which requires actual observation of treatment to ensure regular intake of your medication.

Successful treatment of TB depends on close cooperation between you and your health care provider. Consult your doctor for proper advice on your condition.

Dr. Montoya is an internist and infectious disease specialist. He is an active consultant at the Philippine General Hospital and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). He is the Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD). Dr. Montoya is also a professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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MEDICard - The Healthcare I Deserve!

What is Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease?

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a lung condition that is characterized by airflow limitation. This limitation is not fully reversible, progressive and associated with an abnormal inflammatory response of the lungs to noxious substances and particles. This disease process is usually manifested as chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Majority of patients with COPD have the combination of chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Rarely do they present as pure chronic bronchitis nor as pure emphysema. The most common risk factor of COPD is cigarette smoking. The other risk factors would be exposure to indoor and outdoor pollution, biomass fuel, occupational dust and chemicals, infections and environmental tobacco smoke which would affect passive smokers. Host factors also play a big role in developing COPD. A gene deficiency called alpha 1 antitrypsin deficiency has been found to cause early onset COPD though this condition is not common in our country. Other host factors would be hyperresponsiveness of the airways and impaired lung growth. Now that we have defined COPD and learned about its components and risk factors, it would be important how to recognize patients with COPD. Patients with COPD present with chronic cough usually productive occurring all throughout the day and are seldom nocturnal which is a characteristic of asthma. The second distinguishing symptom of COPD is progressive and persistent shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. This is usually described by the patient as "air hunger", "increased effort in breathing", " chest heaviness", and "gasping". This usually worsens during exercise and respiratory infections. The diagnosis of COPD is confirmed by a lung function test called spirometry.

Take Charge Doc!

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our accredited Pulmonologist, Dr. Rizal Alberto Nolido Jr. Dr. Nolido, a medicine graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, finished his residency training for Internal medicine and his subspecialty for Pulmonology in St. Lukes Medical Center where he later became a member of the training committee of the department of Medicine of the said institution. He is a fellow of both Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians. He is also the current president of the St. Luke's Medical Center Institute of Medicine Alumni Association. MEDICard members may avail for his consultations at St. Luke's Medical Center from Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon or at our newly accredited hospital, Marikina Valley Medical Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICARD

AGING GRACEFULLY

Using safe cosmetics to stay looking young

By Joel V. Nigos

Aging gracefully, according to beauty diva and columnist Mayenne Carmona, involves choosing which products to use which include using only safe cosmetics.

'It's important that cosmetics are analyzed and checked if they contain lead, parbens, parrafins, formaldehyde, and other poisons. They can cause diseases even skin cancer."

'Safe cosmetics don't mean they are expensive. There are lots of inexpensive products nowadays that are safe to use.'

Staying beautiful and keeping one's youthful looks defy gravity and law of nature. As such, people often resort to anything available to them no matter what the cost just to keep looking young.

With lots of options nowadays, that desire would no longer be elusive to those who wish to. There are beauty treatments, anti-aging creams, pills, cosmetic procedures (both invasive and non-invasive), diet and exercise.

But aging gracefully, as Mayenne Carmona, a beauty diva and a columnist for a national daily calls it, involves making the right decisions of choosing which, when, where and what products to use and what you need to involve yourself into.

"There's no now reason for one to look old as he or she adds years to his or her life," Carmona says, who's still young looking and who retains a lovely aura until today.

And what's a beauty regimen like for the beauty diva who's also involve in charitable activities and in raising funds for indigent children afflicted with fatal diseases?

Carmona shares she's very thankful she's blessed with very good skin. "I already beat the first factor in wearing makeup. I don't have to put on thick makeup to hide anything," she says adding that this helps since her regimen is very basic.

She says she's not big on facials. "I believe in cleansing thoroughly all traces of makeup before sleeping. I use baby oil, cream or toner. Then I dab a moisturizer. I also tried anti-aging creams which I found to be all fine. I'm so blessed because I don't have to buy expensive brands just to have sparkling skin and I can use any product."

She says that during daytime she only put on light powder and "always, always lipstick of any color. It brightens my face. I also use black pencil to line my eyes lightly."

During nighttime, she shares she's been using dual powder compacts lately. "They are powder with foundation. Then I emphasize my eyes with brown or purple eye shadow, dark liner, dab blusher on my cheeks and again lipstick, usually tones of red."

And with so many non-invasive cosmetic procedures now which are really not expensive, she says there's really no reason for one to look old. "I recommend laser treatments like IPL, Accent, Fraxel, Titan, Photofacial, and the likes. They stimulate the production of collagen in the face and firms it up as a result."

She says it's also important to have an exercise program and to watch one's diet.

"These two go hand in hand. We should be knowledgeable of the foods that are nutritious and healthy. You are what you eat. If you eat healthy, you'll feel healthy and you'll look healthy. Try also to incorporate exercise in your daily activities. I vary my exercise to avoid boredom. I also believe in taking vitamin supplements."

But for Carmona, the most essential thing in aging gracefully is in choosing the product that you use and in making sure that you are using only safe cosmetics.

"It's important that cosmetics are analyzed and don't have the toxic amounts of lead, parbens, parrafins, formaldehyde and other poisons. Do research on these products. Read the labels. Check their ingredients and its manufacturing and expiration dates. Remember, safe cosmetics don't mean they have to be expensive. There are lots of inexpensive products in the market nowadays which are safe to use. And when in doubt about its lifespan, like if it's been with you for years, throw it away. They usually turn toxic after a while."

Foolproof

Pinky Tobiano, president and CEO of Qualibet Testing Services Inc., shares that there are foolproof ways to determine if a cosmetic product, say a lipstick, contains a high level of contaminants like lead.

Tobiano was guest recently at the TV show "Korina Today" hosted by Korina Sanchez aired over ANC. In the program, Sanchez showed how one can check if a lipstick contains too much lead.

"What one should do is put a small amount of lipstick at the back of her hand then rub the lipstick vigorously using a gold coin or earring or anything that has gold. If the lipstick turns black it has a high level of lead," she explains.

She adds that for a lipstick to be safe it should contain only .1ppm (one-tenths part per million) amount of lead. She cites that there are brands available in the market today which has 16ppm lead, 22ppm, 27 ppm, to as much as 31ppm!

Tobiano notes that there are brands which do not exceed the lead content requirement. "No matter how vigorously you would rub the lipstick in your hand with your gold, it would not turn black. Its color would remain the same," she explains as shown in the TV show.

She shares that lead are used in lipsticks to add stability and vividness to the color. "It also adds to its shelf life," she says adding that long-lasting lipsticks are not advisable because they contain a higher level of lead.

Presence of lead in the body can cause memory lapses. According to a study of John Hopkins University, women suffer from memory lapses more than men. The study attributes this to the use of cosmetics by women.

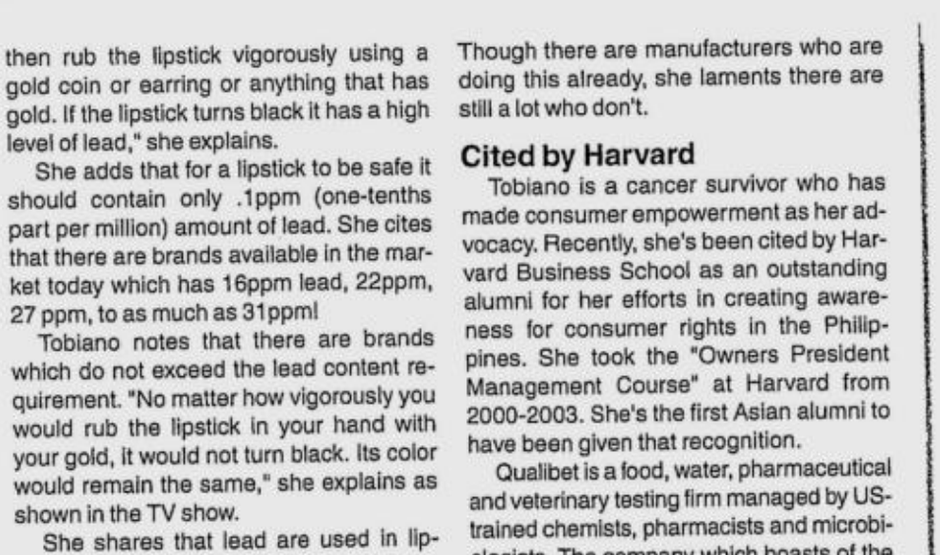
Tobiano calls on cosmetic manufacturers to be responsible enough to put ingredients as well as the manufacturing and expiry dates on product labels. Though there are manufacturers who are doing this already, she laments there are still a lot who don't.

Cited by Harvard

Tobiano is a cancer survivor who has made consumer empowerment as her advocacy. Recently, she's been cited by Harvard Business School as an outstanding alumni for her efforts in creating awareness for consumer rights in the Philippines. She took the "Owners President Management Course" at Harvard from 2000-2003. She's the first Asian alumni to have been given that recognition.

Qualibet is a food, water, pharmaceutical and veterinary testing firm managed by US-trained chemists, pharmacists and microbiologists. The company which boasts of the most modern testing facilities in the country is affiliated with the American Chemical Society and is also ISO 90001-certified. Qualibet tests cosmetic products' safety. It also conducts seminars on Good Manufacturing Practices.

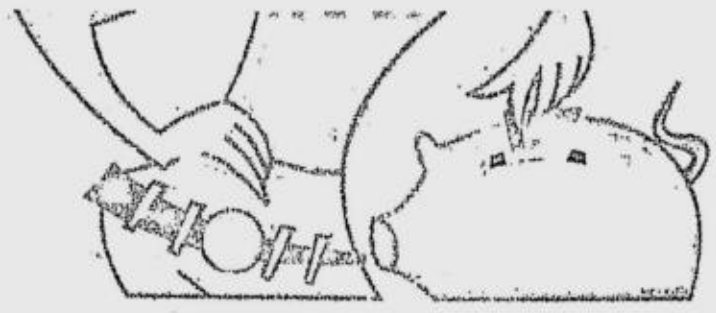
Tobiano says that people should be aware of what goes through their bodies or what they use because unsafe cosmetics may contain contaminants which may cause diseases or even skin cancer.



Carmona (left) with consumer rights advocate Pinky Tobiano, founder also of Qualibet. Her efforts recently earned her a citation from Harvard Business School as an outstanding alumni, the first Asian to have been given that recognition.

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

Manage your weight and save money



By Mitch Felipe, *Contributor*

PEOPLE EXPERIENCE two extreme situations when it comes to numbers during the holiday season. They gain pounds and they lose money.

Do we have to wait for the start of the year to fix our savings and resume exercising and healthy eating?

Take time to improve your self-control skills with regard to finances and eating especially this holiday season.

• **"The more you become aware of your expenses, the more you can control your weight."**

Studies show self-monitoring is effective in controlling weight, emotions and expenses. It will help you break the chain of unhealthy behaviors and thinking.

One of the reasons people hesitate to keep a journal is because they do not want to see the reality of how much food they consume and how much they spend on unnecessary things.

There is no such thing as lack of time. This is all about prioritizing.

When you document your expenses, food or exercise, you can perform a comprehensive analysis at the end of the year to help you improve your performance the next year.

My 56-year-old client found a relationship, after a year, in her financial management, weight-loss and fitness improvements. She now saves more by bringing her own food to work and totally eliminating junk foods at night.

• **"The simplest way to lose weight is to spend and eat wisely."**

I just read the book "Rich and Thin," by Deborah McNaughton & Melinda Weinstein, where the relationship of weight to expenses was explained.

It features a money calorie counter that helps you track calories and savings each day. It gave me the idea to research on the calorie count and the average cost of our high-calorie products.

Here are my discoveries and the things that might happen to you in just one year:

If you buy every day a 12-oz café latte worth P60, you will gain 19 pounds and spend over P30,000.

If you buy every day a slice of cake worth P40, you will gain 24 lb and spend about P13,440.

If you buy every day one small bag of potato chips worth P15, you will gain 14 pounds and spend over P5,000.

If you buy every day a regular soda or iced tea worth P20, you will gain 24 pounds and spend about P6,720.

• **"Try doing it one step at a time and you will eventually see the results."**

Drink water. Most people eating in restaurants or fast-food joints order either iced tea, soda or sweetened juice. It becomes a habit and an automatic response to food servers. Water is calorie-free and the cheapest drink you can ever have.

Bring your own food. Avoid buying high-calorie, high-fat foods like burgers and fries by preparing your own sandwich before you go to work.

Even if you drive in an area where fast-food places are, if you have healthy crackers in your bag, you can avoid spending your money on unplanned fatty foods.

Cook your own meals. Prepare your nutritious meals at home. How much money do you think you can save if you make your own salad, cook your own rice and other dishes?

At home, you can be sure how much oil is used for cooking and how many calories will be saved (1 tablespoon of oil = 135 calories).

If you eat out, split meals. When I eat in restaurants, I usually observe what and how people order. Some couples will order more than two big servings of dishes they cannot finish. The less food you eat, the less money you spend, the fewer calories you consume.

Do your house work. Set aside time at least once a week for your chores. You will definitely burn additional calories and save money by reducing the working hours of your household help.

Instead of watching television, burn 150-300 more calories per hour by cleaning your house, ironing or gardening.

Wake up early and walk. If you walk two kilometers every day for 20 minutes instead of taking a cab, you can save P29,400 and lose 10 lb in a year.

Use exercise to relieve stress. When people are stressed, they either eat or shop. Break the cycle by going to the gym, playing sports, doing household chores or just walking.

Remember that financial problems and major changes in eating habits are two of the major sources of stress.

Reduce extra activities. Go home and sleep early instead of going out late at night. Eliminating some of your extra commitments will prevent you from spending on expensive foods, drinks, gas, parking and entertainment.

For comments or questions about fitness and weight management, e-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com

Tiny device transforms lives of hearing impaired

COCHLEAR implant recipients Sean Riesgo and Cheska Ventura with Med-el country manager for Asia Pacific Maribel Mueller; pioneer implant surgeon Dr. Norberto Martinez; Ilona Anderson, Med-el's director of clinical research and rehabilitation in Austria; and Dr. Charlotte Chiong, another pioneer implant surgeon

APRIL ENCONTRO WAS AN ACTIVE teenager full of hope and dreams when she lost her hearing due to infection of the cochlea, a condition called labyrinthitis.

Six years ago, she had a cochlear implant surgery and her life completely changed as she was able to hear and speak like an ordinary person. After earning a degree in computer science, she now works at the Robinsons Department Store head office.

"At times, I even forget I am deaf," she said.

Vania Aimee Mosanto, 17, also relied on a hearing aid while studying in Cebu City but her parents Victor and Sonnie Mosanto observed her slow learning development.

After a cochlear implant, Vania is now enrolled in a regular school and has even learned to play the violin.

John Job Cortez had an implant when he was 4. He was among the first to undergo the procedure. Deaf since birth as a result of his mother's bout with German measles early in her pregnancy, Cortez now goes to a regular school and can hear and speak.

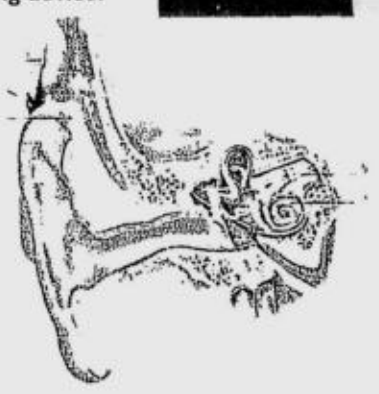
Dr. Norberto Martinez, head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the University of Santo Tomas, said during a lecture seminar organized by Med-el, an Austrian hearing implant company, about one percent of the Philippines' population of 88 million had congenital hearing impairment or were born with a hearing defect.

The country is observing National Deaf Awareness Week until Nov. 16.

Med-el introduced cochlear implant in the Philippines in 1997.

Germany-based surgeon Wolfgang Arnold performed the surgery on Cortez in 1997 at St. Luke's Medical Center, with Martinez, then head of the hospital's Hearing and Balance Disorder Unit.

COCHLEAR implant is a small but powerful hearing device.



Prosthetic

Cochlear implant involves the placement of a prosthetic device in the inner ear to restore hearing.

The breakthrough procedure supposedly allows even children born deaf to learn to speak. The procedure works best on those who lost their hearing after learning to speak, and those implanted at a very young age.

A cochlear device costs US$15,000-$20,000. The implant surgery costs P1-2 million.

Last year, Med-el donated hearing devices and brought Italian professor Vittorio Colletti and Austrian professor Wolf-Dieter Baumgartner to perform brainstem implant and middle ear implant surgery, a first in the Philippines.

Filipino specialists involved in the project were Martinez, Dr. Charlotte Chiong, Dr. Generoso Abes and Dr. Gap Legaspi.

Maribel Mueller, Med-el's country manager for Asia and Pacific, said the implant combined the latest advances in technology and hearing science.

It could open up a new world for a child, including acquiring and improving speech, language, developmental and social skills, she said.

Mueller said the cochlear implant operation usually takes two to four hours. The company offers several options: Combi 40+ implants system, SonataTi100 system, Pulsar Ci100 system and the Vibrant Soundbrige.

All implants have powerful custom-made chips that can process large amounts of information at a very rapid rate using low energy. The implant itself needs no batteries.

An external speech processor provides the energy to power the implant, which is made of materials that have been extensively tested for biological compatibility, durability and sterility.

The implant system case is only about 33.5mm x 23.4mm and 4mm thin. Its electronic components are contained in a ceramic case.

Med-el, which is based in Innsbruck, Austria, has 18 regional offices supporting implant centers in over 70 countries and cities.

In the Philippines, its regional office is at Richville Corporate Tower, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, and it has two implant centers—at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (0917-8454566) and the University of Santo Tomas Center for Audiological Sciences (0917-3241987).

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Wellness begins today

REPEAT AFTER ME: "Beginning today, I will pay more attention to my well-being."

Almost 100 percent of the time, if you will recite this mantra, subtle changes will begin to happen to you in body, mind, heart and spirit.

Who's making you sick?

It is easy to point an accusing finger at that luscious cheesecake or your uninspiring gym trainer or your workload in the office.

But, truth is, everything—and that means your time, effort or dedication—are all under your own control.

Points to ponder

1. Each time you postpone a trip to the gym or put off your exercise, you are allowing your body to slow down and age faster.

2. Every day you delay your workout, your metabolism slows down.

3. Every extra serving of gravy or cream or dessert you take adds inches to your waistline. So do not be surprised if you cannot zip up your favorite pair of jeans.

4. Mornings that begin with a complaint only attract more situations for you to complain about. This is a truth you must respect as gospel.

5. Skipping meals will only wreak havoc on your blood sugar. One of the secrets to good health is a steady blood sugar level.

6. Adding more and more processed food to your meal means more chemicals pumped into your bloodstream.

7. A heavy heart weighed down by hatred can only have room for more hatred—not peace of heart. What occupies your heart becomes its regular fare. It is what your heart feeds on.

8. The grab-what-you-can approach to eating is called the fast-food mentality. With no idea about what is good for your body, you simply eat what is available or within easy reach.

9. Talking nonsense to yourself is counter-productive. Replaying in your mind traumatic experiences in your life will only depress you further and cause you to be ill. In fact, talking about pain and grievances will create a huge ball of energy around you—one that is destructive.

Inspire yourself

1. If you think you are less than what you believe you can be, think again. People with a poor self-image cause their own miseries. Sure, not everyone can boast of a perfect childhood. But you are not a child anymore. So, get over it and start living.

2. Seek therapy if necessary.

3. If your self-confidence is low, enroll in a personality development course. Talk to your parish priest or pastor for guidance. Consult a parent or big brother/sister, or best friend for support.

4. Ask a nutritionist to design a health plan for you.

5. Go to a bookstore and spend the day reading self-help books.

6. Learn to laugh. When you lighten up, your world becomes brighter.

7. Make it a habit to take multivitamins after your heaviest meals. They will help keep you feeling better.

8. Learn to march to a mission of your own—a personal mission to rebuild your health, renew your heart and revise your spirit. All you need is to say to yourself: "I can and I will."

Love and light!

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Why quantum physicists talk like mystics

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT problems confronting psychics, mystics, visionaries or clairvoyants, is how to make what they see real to ordinary people who do not and cannot see it the same way they do.

And since they are in the minority, their views are often ignored or disregarded by the majority, which constitutes the mainstream opinion.

What psychics and mystics see as the real nature of the physical universe lies outside the purview of classical or orthodox science. And, because of this, it is considered to be unreal or non-existent.

To ordinary people, anyone who insists that there are such things as psychic or paranormal powers or phenomena must surely be hallucinating or imagining things.

This view prevails among the great majority of western scientists, despite so many incontrovertible proofs presented and reliable experiments conducted by reputable scientists showing that such things do exist.

This negative attitude may soon change. Psychics and mystics have found an unexpected ally within the ranks of a relatively new scientific field called by various names like quantum mechanics, modern physics, particle physics and, lately, quantum physics.

Indistinguishable

In fact, the way pioneers of quantum physics describe the ultimate nature of physical reality is often indistinguishable from the way mystics talk about it.

This uncanny and incredible parallelism in the thinking of both mystics and modern physicists was not lost on several keen observers of recent developments in science.

Four major and exciting books have come out in the last 15 years showing such parallelism. These are:

1. "The Dancing Wu Li Masters, An overview of Modern Physics" by well-known writer Gary Zukav

2. "The Tao of Physics" by physicist Fritjof Capra

3. "The Medium, the Mystic and the Physicist (Toward a General Theory of the Paranormal)" by psychologist Dr. Lawrence LeShan

4. "Mysticism and the New Physics" by science writer and researcher Michael Talbot

What has come out of the studies of quantum physicists is that it has rendered Newtonian physics and Euclidean geometry, which have been the bases of modern science for centuries, inapplicable when it comes to the sub-atomic particles of matter.

No longer the same

Matter can no longer be looked at merely from the way Isaac Newton and classical physics have always looked at it.

Classical physical science makes the following assumptions about the world:

1. There is an objective reality that lies outside of us, i.e. separate from us.

2. This reality is absolute, fixed and stable and can be observed, measured, weighed and analyzed.

3. It stays at a certain locus that can be pinpointed.

4. It exists either in the present, past or future.

5. Its activities or characteristics are governed by the deterministic laws of physics established by Newton.

6. The cause always precedes the effect, etc.

No one has ever questioned these assumptions that are regarded as true and absolute, until Albert Einstein came along and pointed out that everything was relative, including the nature of physical reality.

Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity shattered the very foundations on which classical physics was built. It laid the groundwork for the development of the new or modern physics now referred to as quantum physics.

Quantum physics deals with the nature, behavior and characteristics of the smallest, subatomic particles of matter.

In this unseen world of particle physics, sacred laws of Newtonian physics no longer apply. In fact, the behavior of the smallest particles of matter defies all previously known and accepted laws of physics.

That is why it took these new physicists a long time to realize and accept what they were seeing in their laboratories and in their mathematical formulations.

In essence, what governs the behavior of the smallest particles of matter is human consciousness. This led the great modern physicist Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington to declare that the "stuff of the universe is mind stuff."

Note: Attend the next ESP & Intuition Development seminar Nov. 24-25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Makati. For details, call tel. nos. 8107245 or 8926806. In Cagayan de Oro City, I will conduct a Stress Control, Self-healing and Goal Setting Seminar Nov. 17; and Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation Seminar Nov. 18. For details, contact Jessica Tomacas at cell no. 0920-9235704.

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INSIDE

Scenes from the snake man 'fantaserye' Sneak Peek /D6

Diplomats visit 'Tribu' location shoot /D6

Jed was Rachel's date at Beyonce concert

DOLPHY with wife Zsa Zsa Padilla and daughter Coco

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

RACHEL ANN GO AND JED MADELA WERE spotted together at Beyonce's concert. Where was Shin's (pet name of Rachel) BF **Christian Bautista**? Maybe it was just a friendly date. But what's this I heard from somebody privy to Jed's affairs that he and Shin have an on and off relationship?

"As far as I know 2006 *pa sila* secret lovers. But Jed was advised to stay away because the Christian-Rachel team-up was being groomed then," my source revealed. "During Rachel's birthday concert in August last year, where Jed was the scriptwriter, he told her to make a stand once and for all. But *di nakaya ni* Rachel the pressure so she arrived with Christian. Jed felt like a fool that night. He hanged out with Shin's family instead."

I texted Christian but got no reply. As for Rachel, she would rather not comment on the issue for now.

Is it just a love team/love scheme thing for Christian and Shin? And a case of OPM for Jed and Shin? OPM meaning *On Pag Magkasama, Off Pag Magkahiwalay*.

Break time

I've always fancied taking a peek into the "unshowbiz" moments of celebs. For instance, here's **Zsa Zsa Padilla**'s cute pic with **Dolphy** and their daughter Coco taken during their recent vacation in Boracay. She labeled it "Pose like tourists".

"We were happy being laid-back. We ordered room service all day. Dolphy watched TV while the kids and I surfed the net," Zsa said. "Coco wanted to get some sun because it would be winter when she goes back to Australia for school. It was a simple bonding trip."

Bonding will never turn into bondage for a couple as happy as the King of Comedy and his queen.

Rowellicious?

Beyonce was said to have been fascinated with **Rowell Santiago** whom she met backstage during her concert at the Fort. I texted Rowell for his reaction but he seemed to be "deadma" about the issue.

Beyonce's manager/dad guarded her like a hawk so I doubt if Rowell was able to make a move.

Besides, isn't Beyonce crazy in love with Jay-Z? Or is Ms Bootylicious now smitten with Rowellicious?

Hip alternative

Ever wondered if there is more to life than what you have been accustomed to? Well, think no more because celebrity insider **Raymond Gutierrez**, style guru **Tim Yap** and commercial model **Issa Litton** will show viewers the hippest alternatives in fashion, food, services, gadgets, events and luxuries in "Living It Up" every Saturday, 6-7 p.m. on Q-11. *C'est la vida ganda*!

Grand production

ABS-CBN unwraps an early Christmas present for kids of all ages via its newest series "Princess Sarah" (after "TV Patrol World"). Top-billed by child superstar **Sharlene San Pedro**, it is based on the popular cartoon about a princess who had to endure the maltreatment of her peers before she emerged victorious.

The grand production features a powerhouse cast led by **Ai-Ai de las Alas, Diether Ocampo, Sheryl Cruz, Bubbles Paraiso** and **Albert Martinez**. Sheryl was last seen in GMA 7 *teleseryes*. Now she ventures into Kapamilya territory.

Will her *contravida* roles give her the best of both networks? "I'm a free lance actress and I work on a per project basis. I like the way the character of my role as Miss Minchin has been developed. There's a redeeming factor behind her mean ways."

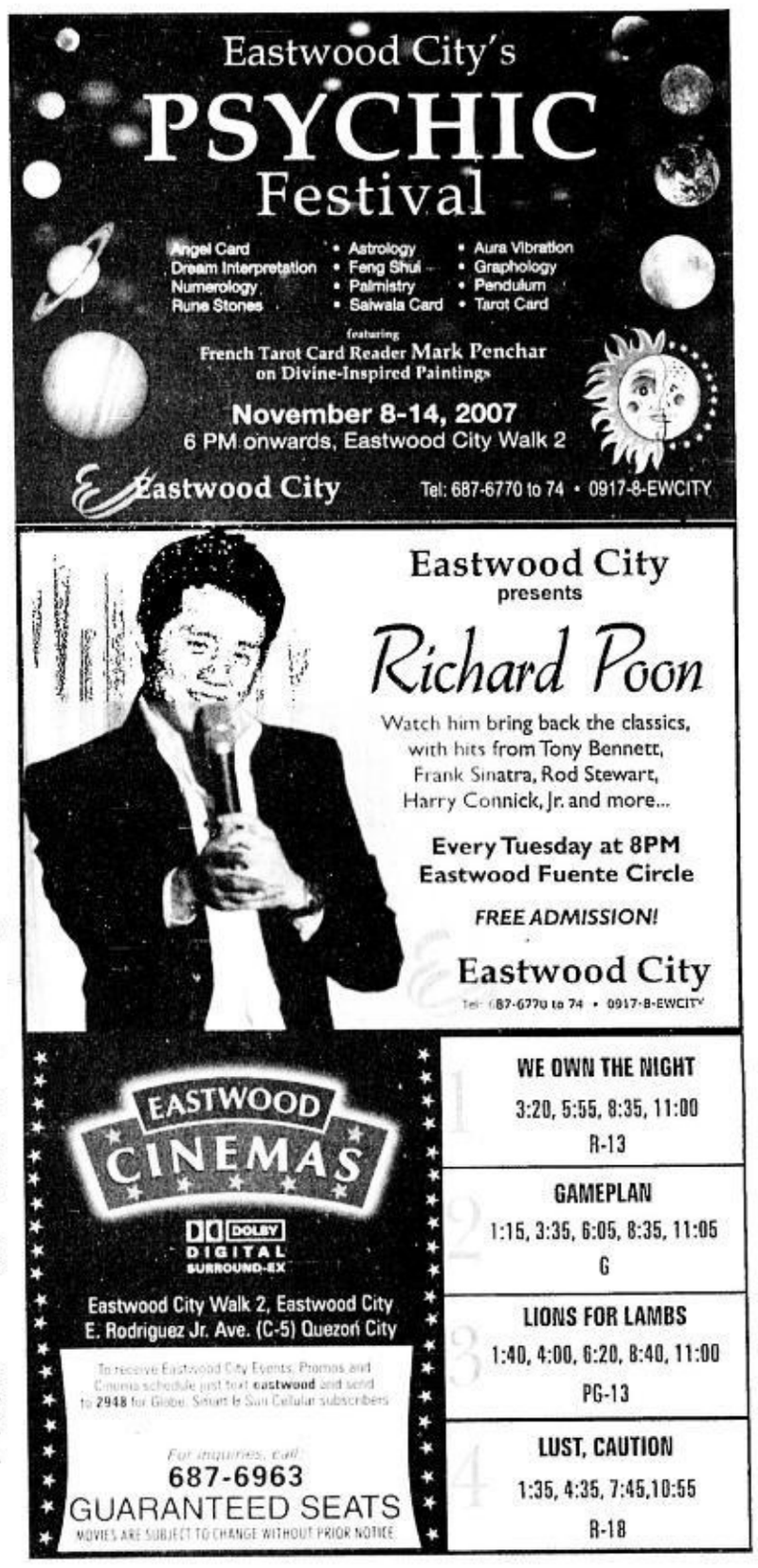
Romance is said to be brewing between Diet and Bubbles but both of them just shrug it off. Princess Sarah was once upon a time played by **Camille Prats**. Now she's awaiting the birth of her little princess/prince in the US.

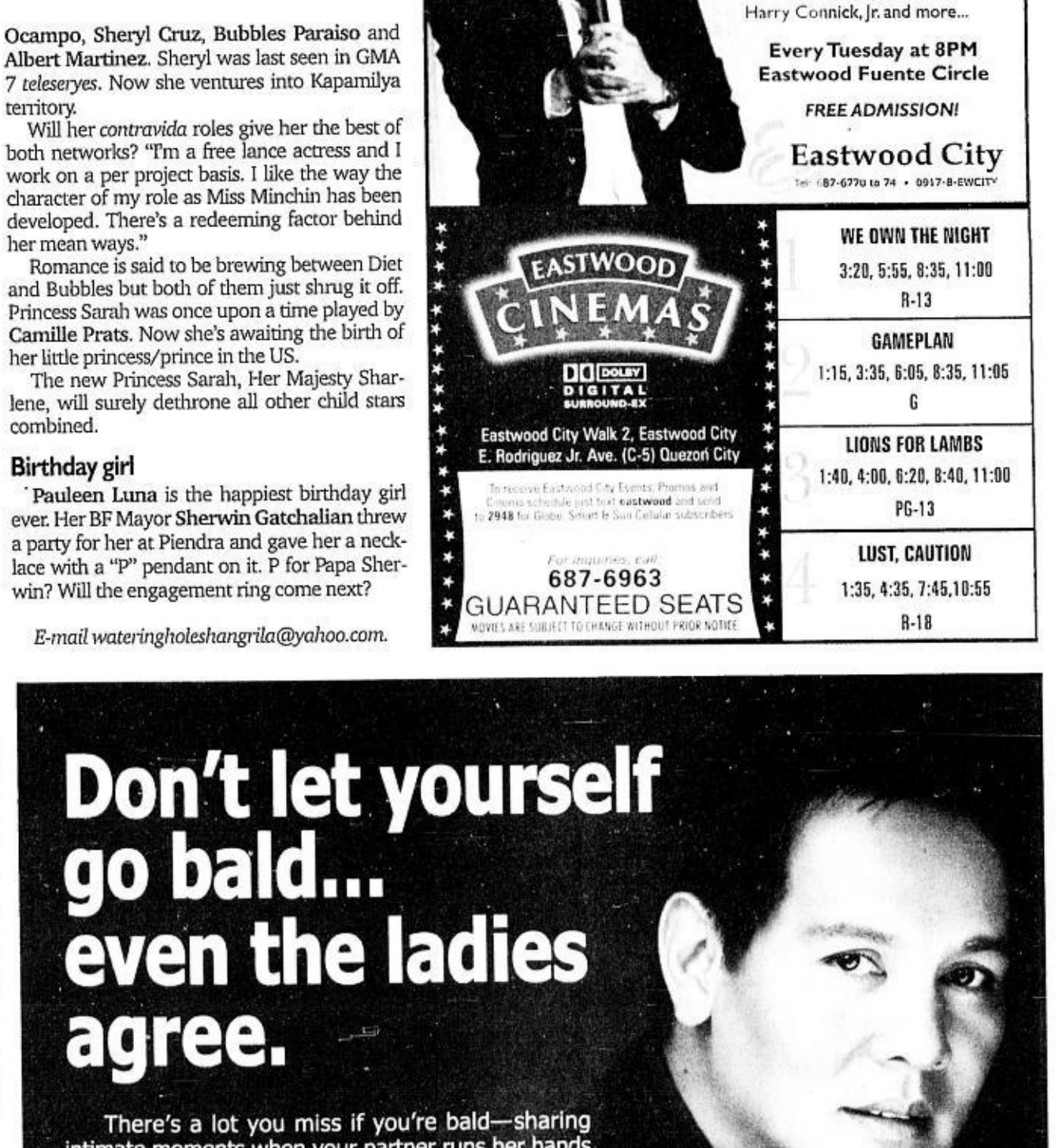
The new Princess Sarah, Her Majesty Sharlene, will surely dethrone all other child stars combined.

Birthday girl

Pauleen Luna is the happiest birthday girl ever. Her BF Mayor **Sherwin Gatchalian** threw a party for her at Piendra and gave her a necklace with a "P" pendant on it. P for Papa Sherwin? Will the engagement ring come next?

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.





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5

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2 GAME PLAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 EL CANTANTE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 BALLS of FURY
1:25 3:35 5:45

5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 GHOST SON
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 ATAUL for RENT
30 DAYS of NIGHT
1:10 3:20 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 indieSine: 2 MINUTES LATER
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

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1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 LUST CAUTION
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

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12:35 3:00 5:35 8:00 10:00

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12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

4 GHOST SON
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

5 BALLS of FURY
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

6 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

7 HIDE and SEEK
12:35 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00

1 EL CANTANTE
12:35 3:00 5:25 8:00 10:00

2 GAME PLAN
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12:45 3:05 5:25 7:45 10:00

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3 GAME PLAN
10:45 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

4 EL CANTANTE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

5 LUST CAUTION
11:20 2:30 5:40 9:00

6 HIDE and SEEK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

8 ATAUL for RENT
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
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DID YOU KNOW...

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

LOS ANGELES—A SPOKESWOMAN FOR Michael Jackson on Friday denied reports that the former "King of Pop" will be forced to give up his Neverland ranch in California over delinquent loan payments. Raymone Bain said the singer, who has not lived at the property since his acquittal on child sex charges in 2005, did not default on a $23.2 million loan on the home. *AFP*

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
MTRCB PG-13 12 40
3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

2 THE GAME PLAN
MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
MTRCB R-13
2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

4 BALLS OF FURY
MTRCB GP 1:10, 3:15 5:20, 7:25, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE
LUST CAUTION (R-18)
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BALLS OF FURY G 1:45,3:45 30 DAYS OF NIGHT R13 5:40,7:55,10:10	GAME PLAN G 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10	EL CANTANTE R13 12:30,3:00,5:10,8:00
WE OWN THE NIGHT R13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	LUST CAUTION R18 12:40,3:50,7:00,10:10	LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30

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CINEMA 5: GAME PLAN 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 GP

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NOW SHOWING

The less visible talents

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN SHOW BUSINESS, THE MOST visible personalities are the stars—actors, singers, program hosts and other on-camera personalities like newscasters and field or segment reporters. These "highly visibles" are fussed over and praised by the viewing and listening public, and get the lion's share not just of the fame, but of the attendant fortune as well.

But these stars wouldn't shine as brightly if it weren't for the entertainment industry's less visible talents and personnel, from producers and directors all the way down to propmen and make-up artists.

Fact is, it is these "less visibles" who actually make the entertainment machine run. Without them stars wouldn't have productions in which to star, and would have to content themselves with performing for the benefit of their relatives, their pet puppy and their bathroom mirror.

Veil of illusion

Even less known and recognized are show biz workers who must hide themselves from public view to sustain the veil of illusion the entertainment world sometimes needs to put on. We call this third group of show biz workers "the invisibles."

Currently at the top of the list is the title character of the hit TV *fantaserye*, Kokey. The popular extraterrestrial is now a big star—but he doesn't really exist.

He's a hollow shell manipulated by a little person inside. At other times, he's a puppet made to move externally by hand or electronics.

But it's the dummy's handler we're interested in: The little person has a name, but we're not encouraged to find out about it, because it would ruin the illusion that Kokey is a living and breathing extraterrestrial.

It seems unlikely that anybody would believe that Kokey is a person, since he looks so obviously like a dummy or puppet. But TV is so powerfully persuasive that some clueless viewers are "fooled."

Or, even if they aren't, TV people are keen on sustaining the "official" illusion that the latest TV star is alive.

We're interested in Kokey's "invisible" handler because he's helped make the show's title character a big star; while being constrained to remain anonymous! So, even as the dummy he inhabits is lionized by thousands, he remains unseen and unknown.

How must he feel about this? Is it just part of the job for him, or would he want to be known for himself? Is there a love-jealousy relationship between the star dummy and the "invisible" handler? We have no way of finding out, because the handler's identity is confidential, but the seeds of psychological drama have been planted in our fecund and nosey writer's psyche!

Less extreme in this regard, are all the other manipulators and handlers of the scores of product "mascots" that personify a wide range of brands, especially those that manufacture goods for children.

Since the "fame" of the mascots they manipulate isn't as great as Kokey's, these puppets' handlers most likely would be less potentially conflicted, but they're every bit as invisible.

Also unseen by viewers are the handlers of characters in some children's shows on TV like "Sesame Street" and High-5.

Other "invisibles" include the versatile dubbers who make foreign movies or Korean telenovelas accessible to local viewers. They may be utterly unknown, but some of them are more talented than a number of the stars we have. Isn't that ironic? But then, the entertainment world is rife with such instructive ironics.

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WE OWN THE NIGHT 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20	LIONS FOR LAMBS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	GAMEPLAN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	
30 DAYS OF NIGHT 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30	LUST CAUTION 12:10 / 3:10 / 6:10 / 9:10	EL CANTANTE 1:05 / 6:35 STARDUST 3:35 / 9:00	
GHOST SON 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	UNREST 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	BALLS OF FURY 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	LIONS FOR LAMBS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

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PBA GAMES
Nov. 14, Wednesday
4:50 pm PUREFOODS vs AIR 21 7:20 pm STA LUCIA vs COCA COLA

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
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GLORIETTA 1	1 LIONS FOR LAMBS	2 THE GAME PLAN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 ATAUL FOR RENT
GLORIETTA 4	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 EL CANTANTE	3 THX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUST CAUTION	5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	6 THE GAME PLAN	7 RENDITION
GREENBELT 1	1 LUST CAUTION		2 EL CANTANTE	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 LUST CAUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE GAME PLAN		2 LIONS FOR LAMBS	
	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT	4 LUST CAUTION	5 EL CANTANTE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 BALLS OF FURY	3 WEDDING DAZE	4 HALLOWEEN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GAME PLAN		2 LUST CAUTION	
	3 EL CANTANTE	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT	
TRINOMA	1 LUST CAUTION	2 EL CANTANTE	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS
• THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	5 BALLS OF FURY	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7 THX THE GAME PLAN GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
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Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala

glorietta — Christmas Concert Series feat. KUH LEDESMA
November 11; 6pm; Activity Center

GREENBELT — Bossa Nova Christmas
November 16 & 23; Greenbelt 3 Park

ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Pre-Christmas 10 to 10 Sale!
November 16 to 18 and 23 to 25

AYALA CENTER CEBU — Monterey and Virginia Foods Event
November 11; 3pm to 7pm; Activity Center

MARKET! MARKET! — Jobstreet Job Fair
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Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids
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Ayala MUSEUM — 2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners
November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

TriNoma — Rhythm Academy: Kyla with Tiples De Sto. Domingo
November 17; 7pm; TriNoma Park

Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks
December 9; 6pm; Activity Center

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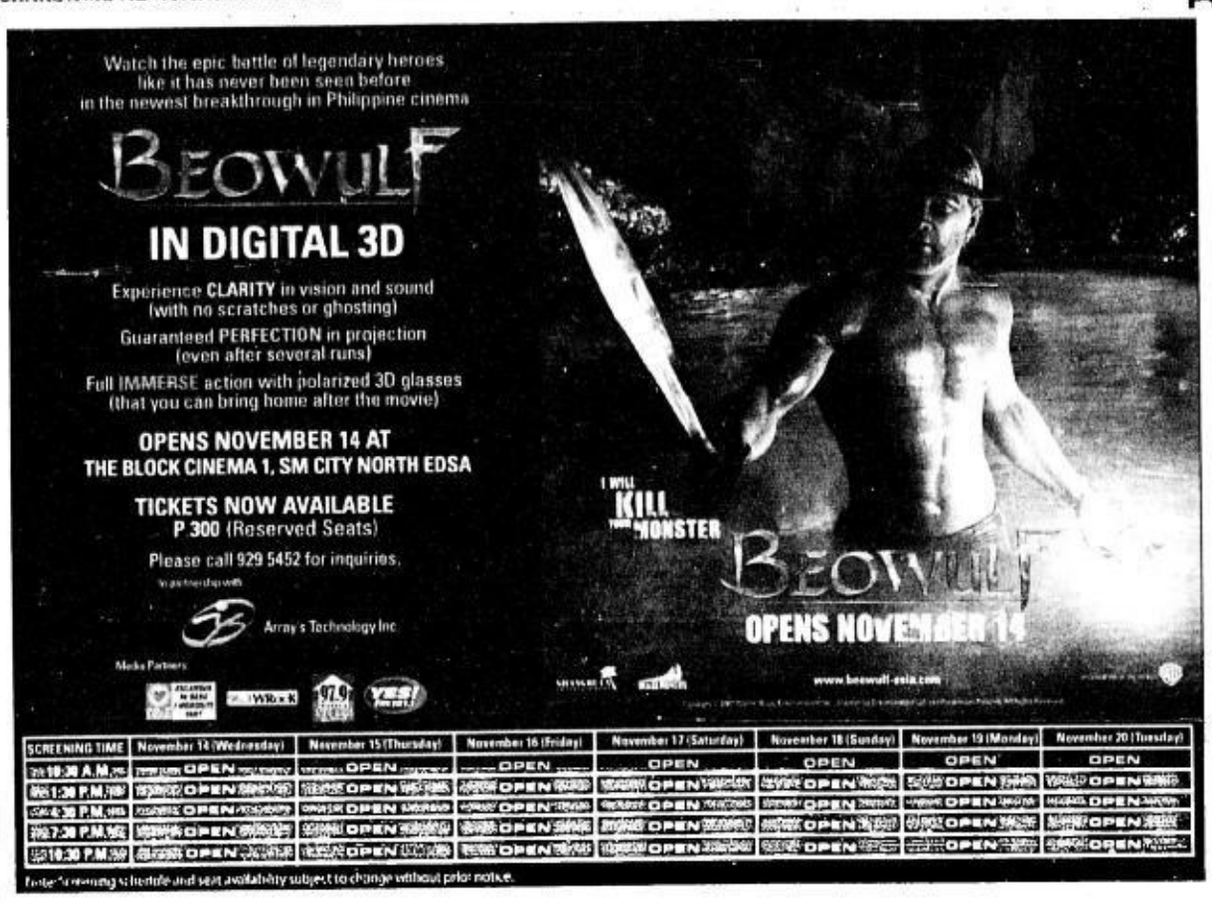

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1. RENDITION
2. BALLS OF FURY
3. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4. WE OWN THE NIGHT
5. HIDE AND SEEK
6. ATAUL FOR RENT

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CINEMA 2
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1. RESERVED
2. BALLS OF FURY
3. RESERVED
4. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5. HIDE AND SEEK
6. THE GAME PLAN
7. LIONS FOR LAMBS
8. WE OWN THE NIGHT
9. GHOST SON
10. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11. STARDUST
12. ATAUL FOR RENT/ EL CANTANTE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1. WE OWN THE NIGHT
2. BALLS OF FURY
3. THE GAME PLAN
4. RESERVED
5. GHOST SON
6. LIONS FOR LAMBS
7. ATAUL FOR RENT
8. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9. HIDE & SEEK
10. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
11. STARDUST
12. EL CANTANTE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1. BALLS OF FURY
2. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
3. RESIDENT EVIL 3
4. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5. STARDUST
6. THE GAME PLAN
7. WE OWN THE NIGHT
8. HIDE AND SEEK
9. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
10. HALLOWEEN
11. EL CANTANTE
12. ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. LIONS FOR LAMBS
2. BALLS OF FURY
3. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4. WE OWN THE NIGHT
5. HIDE AND SEEK
6. HALLOWEEN/ APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7. 11TH HOUR
8. ATAUL FOR RENT
9. EL CANTANTE
10. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1. WE OWN THE NIGHT
2. THE GAME PLAN
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. ATAUL FOR RENT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. LIONS FOR LAMBS
2. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3. EL CANTANTE
4. WE OWN THE NIGHT
5. THE GAME PLAN
6. BALLS OF FURY
7. GHOST SON
8. HIDE AND SEEK
9. ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1. THE GAME PLAN
2. WE OWN THE NIGHT
3. HIDE & SEEK
4. ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

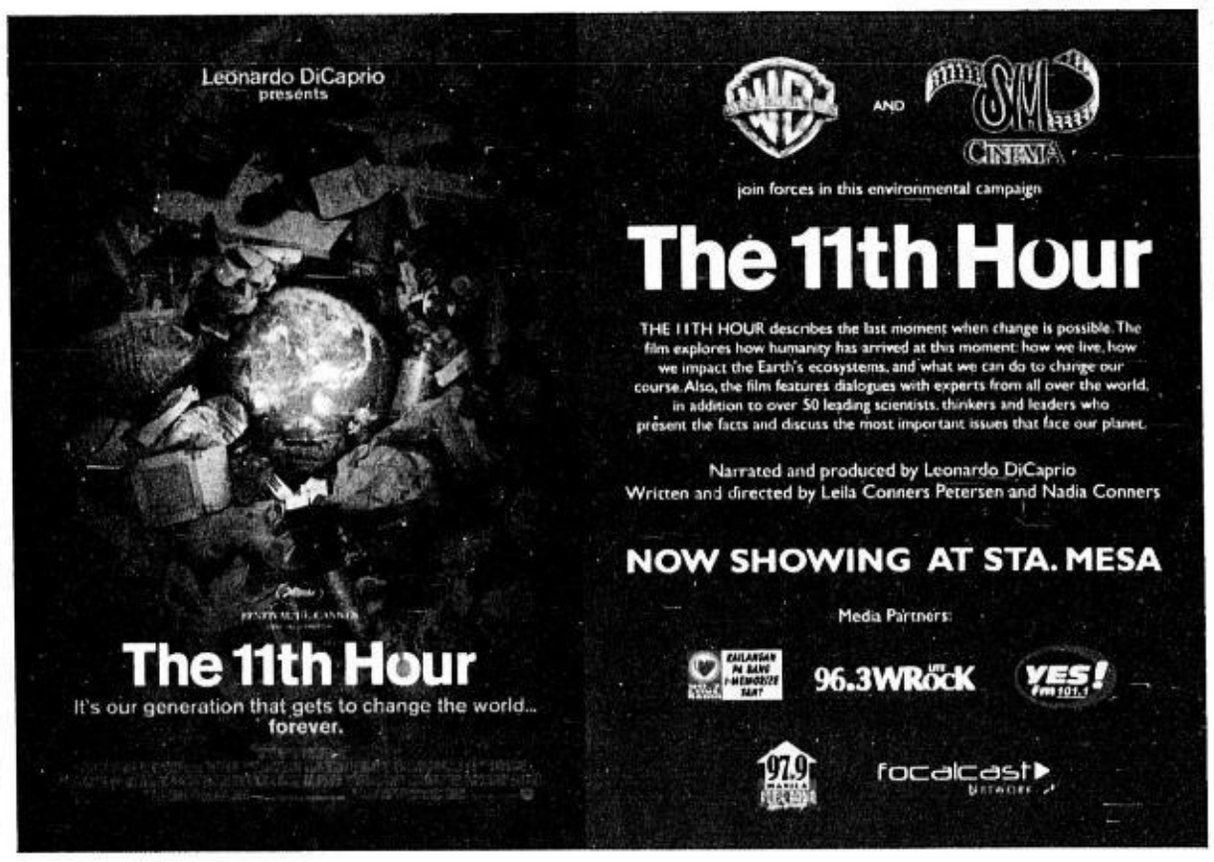
1. THE GAME PLAN
2. LIONS FOR LAMBS
3. ATAUL FOR RENT
4. WE OWN THE NIGHT
5. HIDE & SEEK
6. RESERVED
7. EL CANTANTE
8. HALLOWEEN
9. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10. GHOST SON
11. RESIDENT EVIL 3
12. BALLS OF FURY

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1. HALLOWEEN
2. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. BUTTERFLY ON WHEEL

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2. BALLS OF FURY/HALLOWEEN
3. THE GAME PLAN
4. ATAUL FOR RENT
5. WE OWN THE NIGHT
6. HIDE AND SEEK



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THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2. RESIDENT EVIL 3
3. HALLOWEEN
4. HIDE AND SEEK
5. WE OWN THE NIGHT
6. UNREST
7. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8. ATAUL FOR RENT
9. BALLS OF FURY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1. STARDUST
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100

1. LIONS FOR LAMBS
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. GHOST SON
4. RENDITION

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1. WE OWN THE NIGHT
2. HIDE & SEEK
3. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4. UNREST

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1. KUNG FU FIGHTER
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. HALLOWEEN
4. UNREST

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1. MR. WOODCOCK
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. UNREST
4. RETRIBUTION

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. HIGHLANDER V
3. ATAUL FOR RENT
4. MR. WOODCOCK
5. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6. HIDE AND SEEK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
2. WE OWN THE NIGHT
3. HIDE & SEEK
4. RETRIBUTION

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1. HIDE AND SEEK
2. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3. RESIDENT EVIL 3
4. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1. RESIDENT EVIL 3
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. BALLS OF FURY
4. WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1. HALLOWEEN
2. RESIDENT EVIL 3
3. HIGHLANDER V
4. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5. HIDE AND SEEK
6. WEDDING DAZE

SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1. THE GAME PLAN
2. WE OWN THE NIGHT
3. ATAUL FOR RENT

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1. WE OWN THE NIGHT
2. STARDUST
3. HIDE AND SEEK
4. HAIRSPRAY
5. APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6. HALLOWEEN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1. SHOOT 'EM' UP
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1. UNREST
2. HALLOWEEN
3. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4. RESIDENT EVIL 3
5. STARDUST
6. EVENING
7. RESERVED
8. KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3676

1. HIGHLANDER V
2. BALLS OF FURY
3. WE OWN THE NIGHT
4. WEDDING DAZE
5. HALLOWEEN
6. KUNG FU FIGHTER
7. HIDE & SEEK
8. STARDUST

SM CITY DACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1. HIDE AND SEEK
2. THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3. RETRIBUTION
4. HIGHLANDER V

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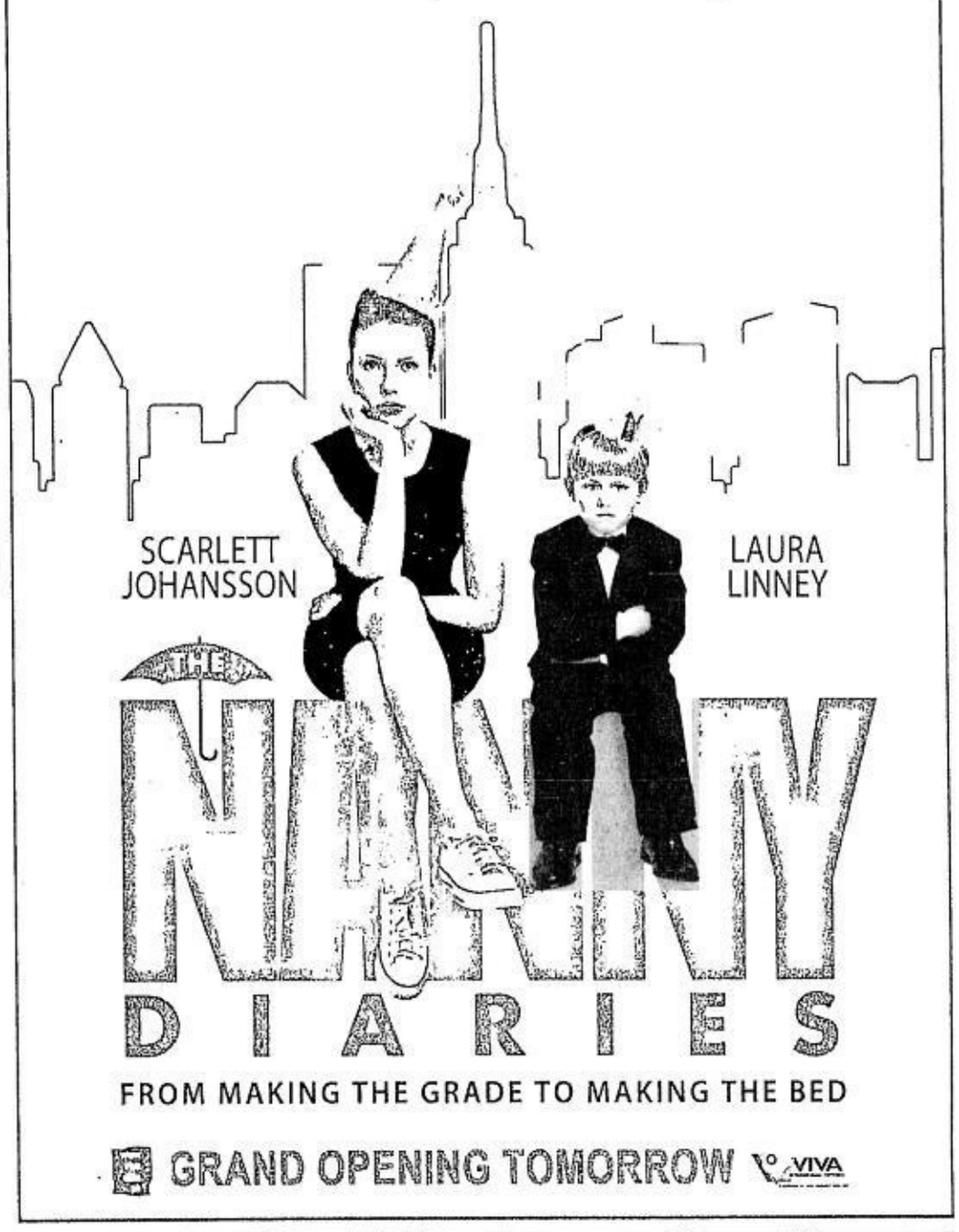
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

WE OWN THE NIGHT

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

She's got killer grades and a killer resumé.
Now, she's in a job that's killing her.



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GRAND OPENING TOMORROW VIVA

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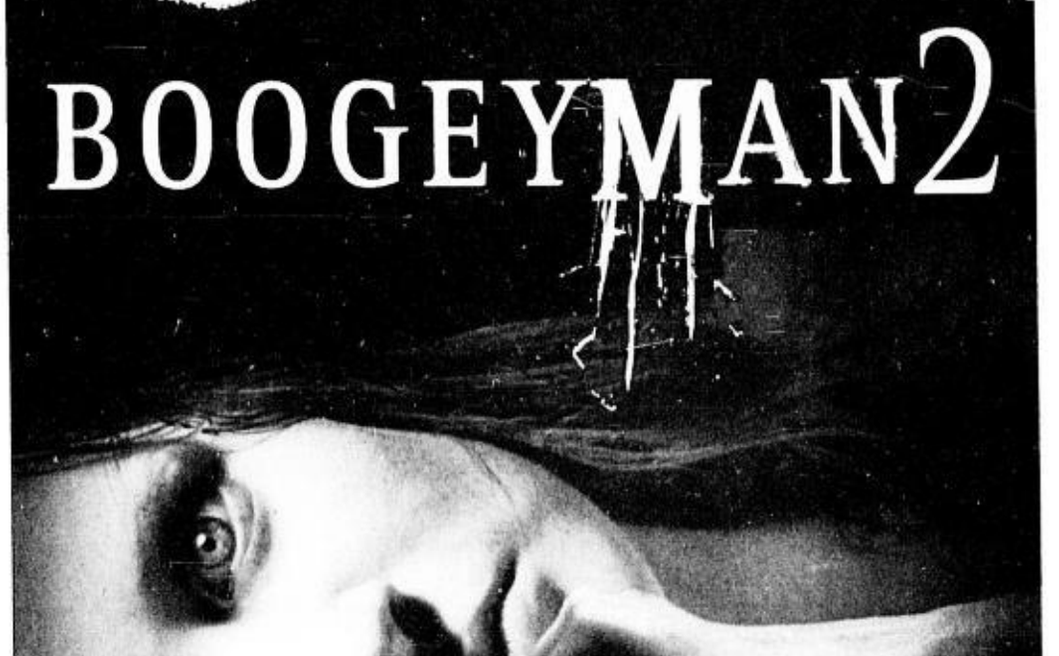
BOOGEYMAN 2



A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

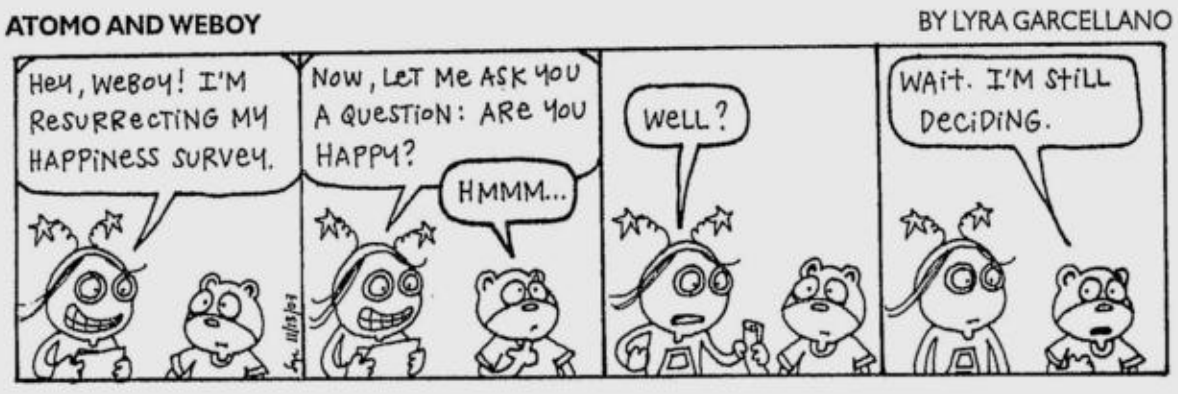
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

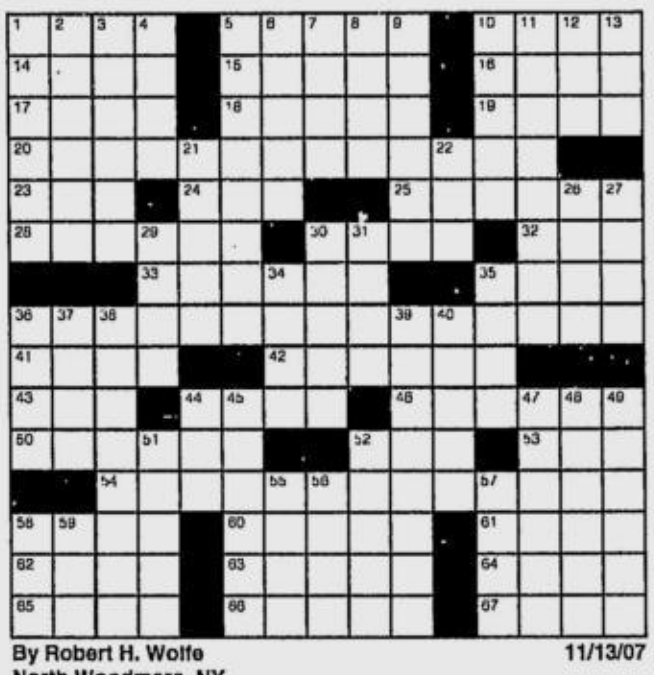


LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

11/13/07

ACROSS
1 Old adages
5 Sew loosely
10 Be adjacent to
14 Dropping noise
15 Charged particle
16 Profuse
17 Gillette razor
18 Greek letter
19 Should that be the case
20 Steakhouse question?
23 Classical heading?
24 Ms. Zadora
25 One-dimensional
28 Penetrated a thick skull?
30 War god
32 In addition
33 Very long cold snap
35 Fellow
36 Think-tank question?
41 Wealthy
42 Wild ass
43 Assent asea
44 Axton or Wilhelm
46 Agreement-breaking words
50 Go beyond
52 Miss Piggy's pronoun
53 Ike's initials
54 Paternity hearing question?
58 Operatic song
60 Oklahoma city
61 Spoke falsely
62 Lip coat
63 Baylor of basketball
64 Pure and simple
65 Give up
66 Hit back, e.g.
67 Part of AARP

DOWN
1 Gives rise to
2 Athlete Gibson
3 Passed slowly
4 Practice punching
5 Nursery piece
6 Ekberg or Baker
7 Exhale sadly
8 Heavy book
9 Activate
10 UFO pilot
11 Tempest-swept
12 Ship letters
13 Even if, for short
21 Grand sagas
22 Berlin ice
26 Top-rated
27 Catholic tribunal
29 Friends, of old
30 Go-between
31 Country singer McEntire
34 A hail at sea
35 Encircle with a belt
36 Shawl or cloak
37 Howdy!
38 Poker game
39 Uninformed
40 Earth as a hypothetical ellipsoid
44 SHO competition
45 Word before bed or crackers
47 Small whirlpools
48 Summers
49 Capacitor jar
51 Disgrace
52 Swing or pop, e.g.
55 Christmastide
56 Korbut of gymnastics
57 __ mater
58 As easy as __
59 __ Dawn Chong

Monday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	T	H	■	S	C	A	L	E	■	C	R	A	B
A	L	O	E	■	A	L	I	E	N	■	L	I	R	A
T	O	P	B	A	N	A	N	A	S	■	E	G	G	S
S	T	I	R	R	E	D	U	P	■	T	A	H	O	E
■	■	■	A	I	R	■	■	■	P	A	R	T	■	■
C	I	L	I	A	■	E	S	P	O	U	S	A	L	S
U	S	E	S	■	S	L	I	E	S	T	■	N	O	W
R	A	F	T	■	O	A	T	E	S	■	O	G	R	E
E	A	T	■	I	N	T	A	K	E	■	I	L	I	A
S	C	H	O	O	N	E	R	S	■	B	L	E	S	T
■	■	A	R	T	Y	■	■	■	S	E	W	■	■	■
A	M	N	I	A	■	D	I	S	C	R	E	D	I	T
D	A	D	O	■	B	O	T	T	O	M	L	I	N	E
A	X	E	L	■	O	L	E	A	N	■	L	A	C	E
R	I	D	E	■	B	E	R	N	E	■	S	L	A	M

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11/13/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're involved in the world around you. You have a strong social conscience because you're passionately opposed to injustice. You work hard to stay abreast of things. (You do your homework.) You're a realist; nevertheless, you have a whimsical, imaginative side. Your year ahead will be fascinating because you're going to study or learn something important to you.

Birthdate of: Whoopi Goldberg, comedian/actress; Chris Noth, actor; Robert Louis Stevenson, poet/novelist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You will do something that calls attention to yourself today. Quite likely, it will involve parents, bosses, teachers or authority figures in your life. Be mindful of this.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an easy day to learn something. Studies will go well. You have an urge to understand more about the world in general. Travel anywhere if you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You'll want to secure your belongings, especially anything having to do with shared property. Focus on debt. How much do you own, and how much do you owe?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today the Moon opposes your sign. This means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Listen to what others say, especially partners and close friends.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be patient with co-workers today. Although others are ready to talk, agreement might not come easily. Try to make your success the success of others

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're playful today but in a serious way. This is an excellent day for creative ventures. Artists can be productive. Discussions about the care or education of children are sensible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Home, family and real estate matters are your primary focus today. What can you do to feel more secure about your domestic scene?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Discussions with others are serious. This is a good time to plan ahead for the future. You might also get advice from someone older, wiser or more experienced than you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): If shopping today, you won't spend your money frivolously. You don't want to waste anything today. You want to buy practical things that will last for a long time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The Moon is in your sign today. Although this can make you more emotional than usual, it will probably draw people to you in an indirect way. Lady Luck is with you today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Work alone or behind the scenes if you can today. You need a little time by yourself. It's a good day to sort out details if you have to deal with the government.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Discussions with friends might be frank and emotional today. Conversations with someone of an age difference could be important.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

		9			3			
				9		3	2	
3			8		7		1	
		3				1		6
	9			1			8	
5		2				9		
	3		4		8			5
	8	6		2				
			6			7		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/13

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	7	6	4	2	9	1	5	3
5	3	4	1	7	8	9	2	6
1	9	2	5	3	6	8	4	7
7	4	3	8	9	1	2	6	5
6	8	5	3	4	2	7	1	9
9	2	1	7	6	5	4	3	8
4	6	8	9	1	3	5	7	2
3	5	7	2	8	4	6	9	1
2	1	9	6	5	7	3	8	4

Difficulty Level ★

11/12

Pretty boy spews venom

For a new 'fantaserye,' a matinee idol learns to slither and grapple like a snake from an 'ultimate' fighter

RICHARD shows snake to a frightened Maxene.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rudy Esperas

MATINEE IDOL RICHARD Gutierrez thanks his lucky stars that he isn't scared of snakes.

In a pivotal scene on the upcoming GMA 7 fantasy series "Kamandag," he had to remain composed while eight snakes were made to crawl all over his body.

"It was a different experience," he recalls. "I was nervous at first, but I had to remain calm. In any case, I was assured that the snakes were not venomous and were pretty harmless."

Richard had to look comfy (and chummy) with the creepy crawlies because he's playing Vergel, a half-man/half-snake on the fantaserye based on a komiks novel by Carlo J. Caparas.

Animal lover

It helps that he has always been fascinated with animals.

"I did a lot of preparation—physically and mentally—for the role," he recounts.

To help Gutierrez get in character, the Kapuso network flew in Filipino-American mixed-martial arts fighter Brandon Vera from the US.

"I try to train with Brandon every day, two hours, twice a day."

He says that Vera, an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) heavyweight, is teaching him various styles like Muay Thai, but they are focusing on Brazilian jiu-jitsu since the combat sport "involves ground fighting."

Gutierrez explains: "Brandon wants me to learn to grapple like a snake, as well as the different techniques that would force an opponent to submit."

Vera says that Gutierrez is a diligent student. "He's good. He's one of the top three among all the students I've had so far."

"I learn a lot from him, especially the importance of being disciplined when training," Gutierrez says.

The actor insists that his "Kamandag" persona is different from the other heroes he has played so far—specifically, the avian "Mulawin," the alien "Captain Barbell" and the jewel thief "Lupin."

"My director, Mark Reyes, and I watched my past shows to make sure our attack is different," Gutierrez notes. "Vergel is an edgier character. For one thing, he has venom in his body!"

As bonus, Gutierrez also has two new leading ladies, Maxene Magalona and Jewel Mische, and a new nemesis in Mark Anthony Fernandez.

"Working with new people makes my job interesting," says Gutierrez.

It is also Gutierrez's first time to work with Reyes on a major teleserye.

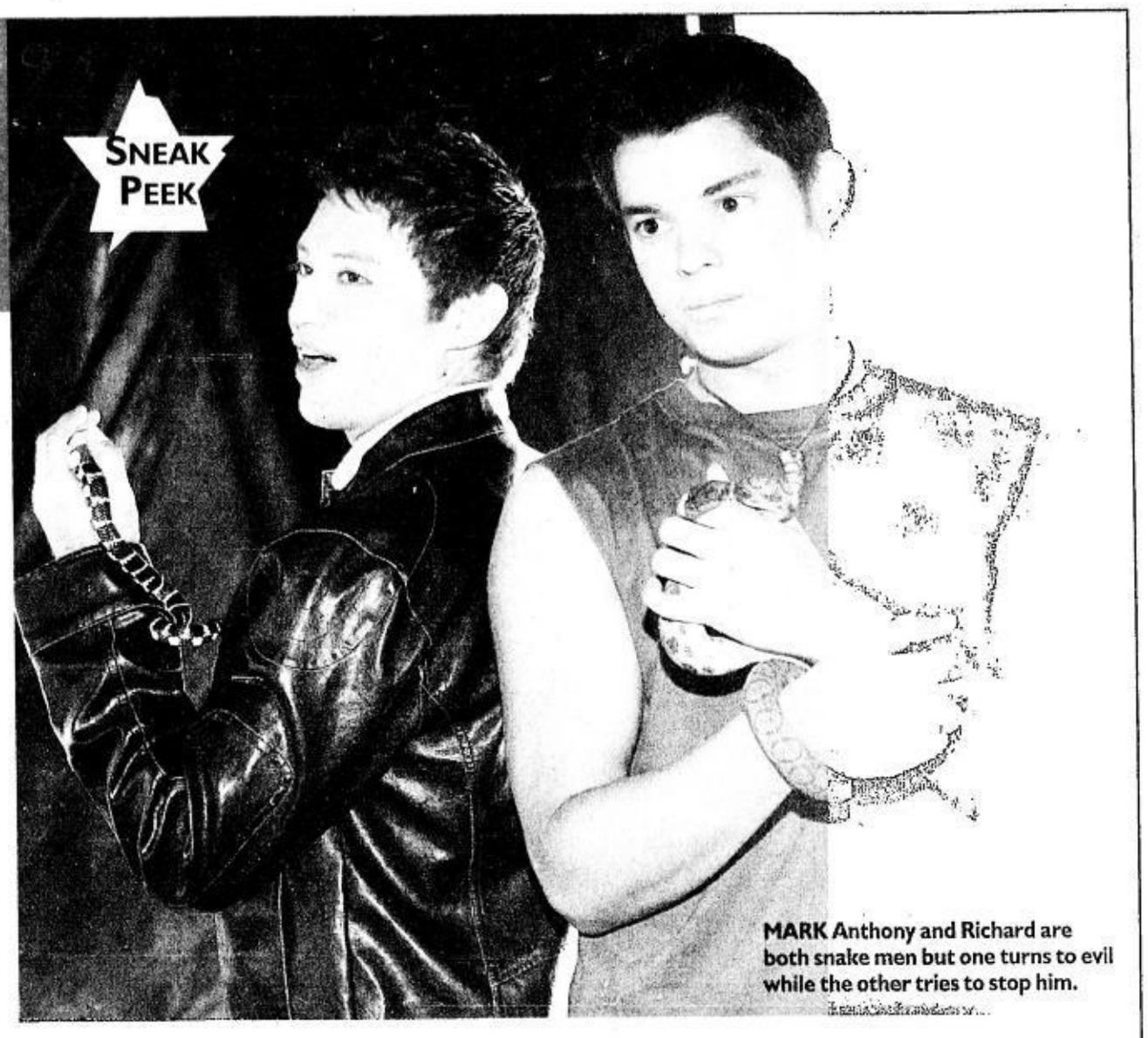
Reyes points out that although he remains faithful to the original concept of Caparas, he has also updated the material by adding new details.

"We came up with a snake people mythology and kingdom," Reyes relates. "This is the most ambitious project I've worked on because it combines 'Encantadia' and 'Barbell,' 'Mulawin' and 'Darna.'"

Needless to say, the Kapuso network is "gung-ho and supportive," says Reyes.

"We have a new studio in Marilao, Bulacan, and the costumes by Noel Flores adhere to the organic snakeskin look," relates Reyes. "We also made sure that Richard can move well in his snake suit."

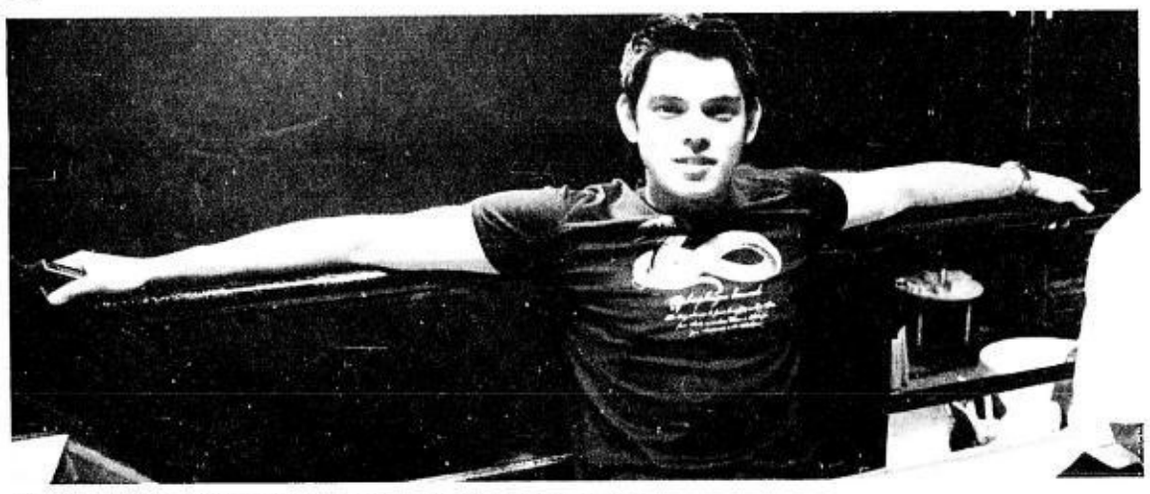
Topel Lee, second unit director, is overwhelmed. "I've always wanted to do action projects. On this show, I realized how hard this genre is. We devote a lot of time on each scene."



MARK Anthony and Richard are both snake men but one turns to evil while the other tries to stop him.

MARK Anthony gets a makeover as the series' bad guy.

STYLIST works on "Starstruck" babe Jewel Mischel's tresses.



YOUNG actor insists Vergel is different from his past roles.

DIREK Mark shows brothers and co-stars Richard and Elvis some test shots.

LAST-minute grooming for the Kapuso's snake man.

Intrigued by 'Tribu,' diplomats visit Tondo

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

"WHAT CAN WE DO FOR TONdo?"

This was the question diplomats from the European Union asked journalist-filmmaker Jim Libiran after watching his critically acclaimed film "Tribu."

In response, Libiran on Wednesday brought the foreign delegates—all 15 of them—to Tondo, Manila, where the digital film was shot.

"I told them to look at the place and decide for themselves. After the tour, they said they would meet to discuss their next move," Libiran told INQUIRER Entertainment on Saturday.

The digital film, which runs for an hour and a half, chronicles the activities of real-life gangsters. It bagged the Best Film in the full-length feature category of the third Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival.

Libiran said that while some of his guests were shocked with what they saw, the others were thrilled to see where the actors—all gang members in real life—live.

"The movie endeared the boys to them. One said that in Germany, most of the gangsters are not respectful of their parents, but not these boys. They still do household chores and take care of their younger siblings," said Libiran.

The diplomats first gathered at the Vitas Base 1 in Tondo at 9 a.m. Then they proceeded to the new Smokey Mountain, which is only a few hundred meters away from the old infamous garbage dump.

Shortly after, they gathered at the barangay hall of the old Smokey Mountain settlement, where a community leader discussed the living conditions of the residents. The delegates also watched a short program organized by teachers and students in the community. And then the group went to visit the area where the film was shot. The tour ended at 12:30 p.m.

One diplomat described the tour as a "very sobering experience." The other said he was "overwhelmed."

The diplomats were composed of Gabriel Munuera from the European Commission; Airi Karges from the Embassy of Finland; Jitt A. Pascual, Mirja Benikovic and Anton Farnstrom from Sweden; Clarizza Aseron, Paula Schindeler and Daniel from The Netherlands; Tina Tschan, Ina Duehring Patel and Klaus Tesch from Germany; Janet Picken from Britain; Deorge Jun Leony Feydean from France; Javier Laporta and Carlos Madrid from Spain.

Libiran said there are two more tour schedules, this time for delegates of two other European countries. He added that another film screening at the Alliance Technologies Corp. office in Makati City is set on Nov. 21.

Libiran added that a representative of the United States Embassy has also contacted him for a possible screening.

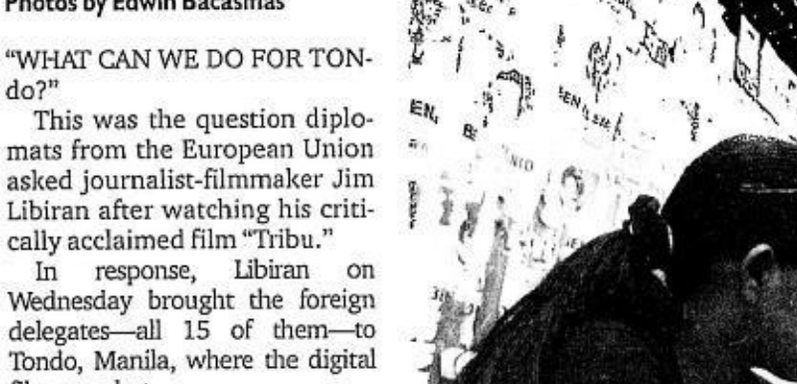
Following its successful showing at the recently concluded Pusan International Film Festival in South Korea, "Tribu" is setting its sights on the Berlin International Film Festival, where the movie will be screened on either the "Forum on New Cinema" or "Panorama" section.

"I'm hoping to bring four of the actors with me to this trip. The Getty Institute is planning on sponsoring a hip-hop exchange," the director said. "Apparently, hip-hop is also big in Germany."

"Tribu" explores the "darker side of Tondo," where boys join gangs in search of "quick fixes and cheap thrills." It also aims to acquaint its viewers to the freestyle gangsta rap and hip-hop scene that is the lifeblood of Tondo's side streets.

LIFE goes on for Tondo residents who are used to seeing foreigners visiting the area.

MEMBERS of the European diplomatic corps are oriented on the living conditions of Tondo residents.



GERMAN delegates Klaus Tesch and Tina Tschan document their trip to Tondo.

GANG members Billy Cruz (second from left) and Shielbert Magat, who became overnight superstars, now serve as tour guides.

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 ★★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 339 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

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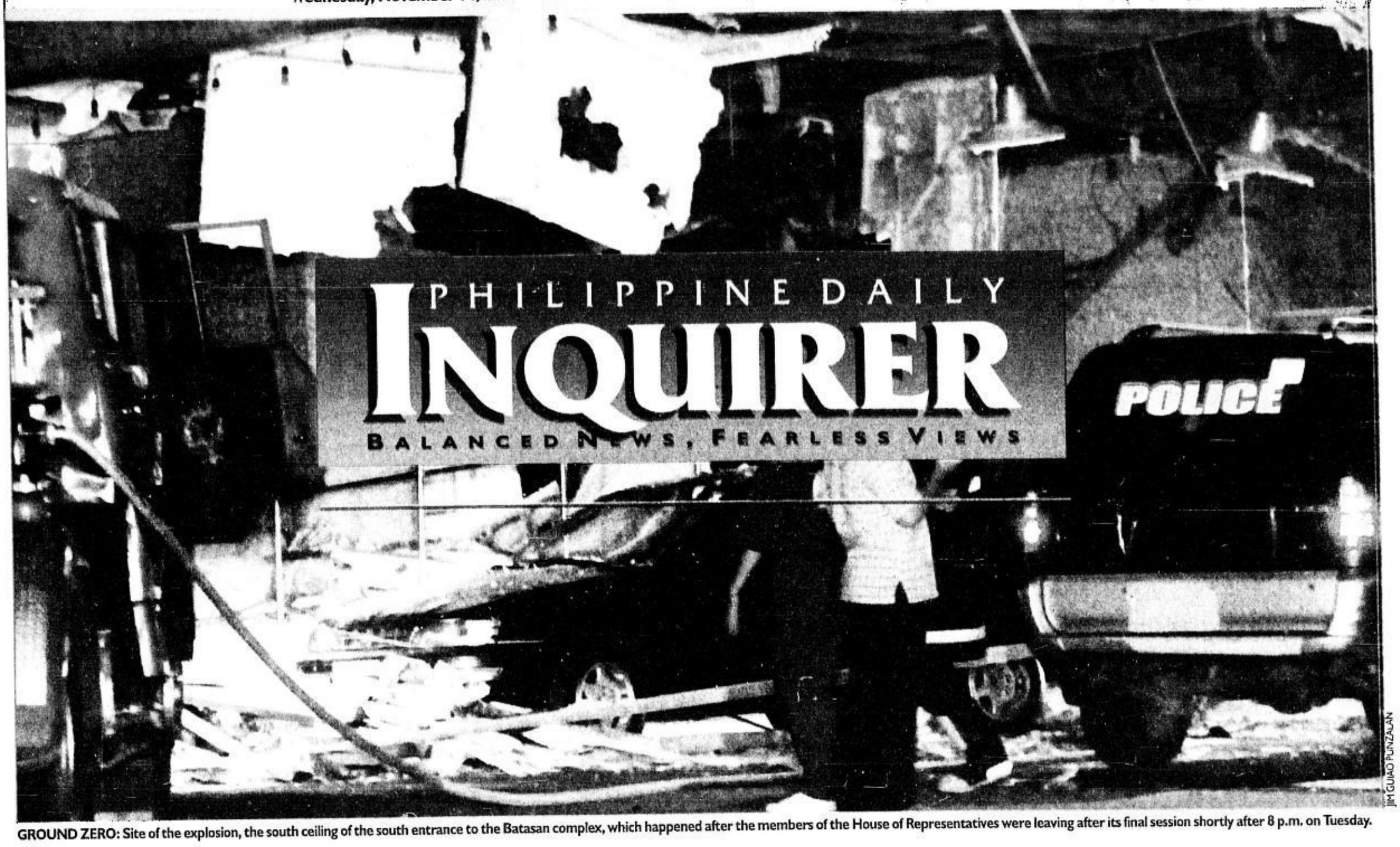
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



JIMY GUIAO PUNZALAN

GROUND ZERO: Site of the explosion, the south ceiling of the south entrance to the Batasan complex, which happened after the members of the House of Representatives were leaving after its final session shortly after 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

BATASAN BOMBED

AFP report says it can't defeat NPA by 2010

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPpines has had limited success in destroying the firepower of communist insurgents, putting it way behind the target of wiping out the rebellion by 2010, a classified military report said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is also the AFP Commander in Chief, has said she wants the communist New People's Army (NPA) largely defeated by the time she steps down from power in June 2010.

But an assessment report seen by Reuters said the military was not winning enough victories against the NPA, which despite the collapse of communism worldwide, continued to strike a chord with poor Filipinos angered at widening inequality at home.

"Although there were successes in all threat areas, the military was not gaining enough to attain strategic victory at the desired rate," said the report on the government's Operation "Bantay Laya," or "Guard Freedom."

"If the military continues its operations at the current rate, it is projected that the communist insurgency will be defeated by 2018," the report prepared by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans said.

AFP REPORT/ A19

LYN RILLON

TOO MUCH POLITICS. That's how President Arroyo explains the country's unrelenting poverty at the National Anti-Poverty Commission Cabinet Group meeting at Malacañang on Tuesday. She cites politicians and groups without heart and soul. *(Story on Page A4.)*

Basilan solon, 2 others killed; 8 hurt in blast

By Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio, Jeannette Andrade and Julie Aurelio

A POWERFUL EXPLOSION LAST NIGHT ROCKED THE south wing parking lot of the Batasan complex in what was described as a terrorist attack that killed three people, including Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar, and wounded eight others, two of them also lawmakers.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia said the blast occurred shortly after the plenary session was adjourned at 8 p.m.

He said a bomb caused the explosion, which came on the eve of the resumption of a congressional hearing that is likely to result in the squelching of an impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo. *(Story on Page A10.)*

"I mention the possibility of a terrorist, an anarchist or an extremist who wants to destabilize ... the national

BATASAN/ A10

Bribery whistle-blowers charged

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THEY SPILLED THE BEANS AND NOW they are being haled to the Office of the Ombudsman to face criminal complaints.

The Philippine Trial Lawyers Association yesterday slapped charges of direct bribery and violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards and the antigraft law against nine officials who admitted that they received "cash gifts" in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

The PTLA claims to be a 29-year-old private corporation composed of roughly 700 lawyers actively engaged in litigation in courts and quasijudicial and administrative agencies.

In 2005, the group asked the Supreme Court to stop a House inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal which suggested that Ms Arroyo rigged the 2004 presidential elections.

Its president, lawyer Marcial Magsino, has also filed sedition charges against former National Bureau of In-

BRIBERY/ A20

Gov. Ed: Lone star witness in bribe probe

By Inquirer Staff

ON THE EVE OF A SENATE INQUIRY into the distribution of cash gifts in Malacañang as President Macapagal-Arroyo faced a new impeachment complaint, Gov. Ed Panlilio of Pampanga said he was unfazed because he would simply tell the truth. *(See related story on Page A20.)*

Panlilio, today's star witness in the nationally televised inquiry, said he had prepared a statement on how he came to receive the P500,000 on Oct. 11 as he walked out of Malacañang.

Volunteer lawyers, some from Ateneo de Manila University, have given Panlilio a "dry run" of what he could expect in the veritable torture chamber at the hands of Senate inquisitors.

Panlilio, a priest of 26 years, has never faced a public hearing in his life.

"I have no fear, I am prepared," said Panlilio, whose confession that he received P500,000 in Malacañang triggered a series of revelations of payoffs

GOV. ED/ A21

Naia launches new campaign: We walk the extra smile

By Tarra Quismundo

SMILE, YOU'RE AT THE NAIA.

The Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) has launched a new campaign to brand the country's main gateway as the smiling airport.

Travelers arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminals 1 and 2, as well as the Manila Domestic Airport will be greeted with smiles by immigration and customs officers and police and quarantine personnel.

And lest they forget, airport staff will be wearing red and yellow smiley buttons—the size of a bottled water container's bottom.

Batting for as much recognition as other country campaigns

NAIA/ A9

Youths in South cash in on call center boom

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—JADE SUAYBAGUIO WANTS to send his sick mother to the hospital, but this is just wishful thinking for a 19-year-old son of a laborer.

His father had stopped supporting the family, leaving the responsibility to him and his elder sister, who, unfortunately, lost her job recently.

YOUTHS/ A10

Escaped detainee tags Palparan

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE YOUNGER OF TWO FARMER-brothers who claimed to have been detained and tortured by the military testified yesterday at the Court of Appeals that then Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan had warned him during his detention to keep his family from joining human rights groups and protest rallies.

According to Raymond Manalo—who, along with his brother Reynaldo, is now in the custody of the Free Legal Assistance Group—Palparan asked him if he was afraid of the military officer whom activists had tagged as a "berdugo"

ESCAPED/ A19

Old Erap foe tapped to go after his luxury cars

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Jeannette I. Andrade and Kristine L. Alave

THE MORAL OF THE STORY SEEMS to be what goes around comes around.

In an ironic twist, the fate of ousted President Joseph Estrada's luxury cars is now in the hands of an old foe, Reynaldo Berroya, who has been tapped by the Sandiganbayan to help in its search for vehicles it could seize as part of the recently pardoned plunder convict's ill-gotten wealth.

Sheriff Ed Urieta yesterday asked Berroya, now chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and assistant transportation secretary, to furnish the antigraft court's Special Division copies of the papers of all vehicles registered in Estrada's name, "so that proper proceedings may be undertaken in accordance with the rules of court."

The Sandiganbayan is looking at four sport utility vehicles owned by Estrada, but it needs confirmation from Berroya's office, Urieta told reporters.

Making no effort to disguise his amusement, Berroya told the INQUIRER: "Poetic justice is the right term.

"I was jailed even if I was innocent. He (Estrada) was jailed, found guilty, but subsequently pardoned. He may not have been convicted for his other offenses, but he was convicted

OLD ERAP FOE A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Northern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI GUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/13/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2 9 31 | 1 6 1 8 8 2

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening 5 3 2 | 5 7 1

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN 18 24 25 29 37 40

P14,119,230.60

Casino video may show Dalaig killer

Cops hopeful tape will solve mystery surrounding Comelec exec's death

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA POLICE HAVE GOTten hold of a video that authorities said could provide more clues to the murder of Alioden Dalaig, the chief of the legal department of the Commission on Elections.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, the MPD director, said the video footage was taken by the closed circuit television (CCTV) at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino.

Dalaig, 64, was shot to death late Saturday as he was walking near the hotel on M. H. del Pilar and Pedro Gil streets. He died of a lone bullet that pierced his heart. Authorities found P300,000 in his pocket.

Rosales said he could not describe just yet the contents of the security tape which was turned over by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), which runs the hotel casino.

"We cannot divulge other details for now because we're still reviewing it," he said.

A source at the MPD, who refused to be named citing a gag order imposed by higher authorities, said the footage showed what was happening "inside and outside" the premises of the hotel.

"The footage could show if Dalaig had really been to the casino, who he was with or who he had spoken to," the source said, adding that the tape might help to identify the gunman.

The source would not say if the tape had caught the actual killing of Dalaig or if it showed him playing in the casino before he was killed.

In an earlier interview, Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, head of the MPD homicide division, said a Pagcor employee had recognized Dalaig and "told us that Dalaig was a regular player at the casino."

Robbery has been ruled out since the cash was untouched, but a transaction that Dalaig supposedly had at the casino would be looked into, the police official added.

The MPD said it was looking at all angles in Dalaig's murder.

Supt. Nelson Yabut, chief of the MPD criminal investigation and detection unit, said they were focusing on a possible connection between the killing and the sensitive job that Dalaig held at the Comelec.

"As of now we are looking at poll protests," he said but did not elaborate.

WHAT'S INSIDE

POLITICKING keeping us poor, says GMA /A4

MILITANT solons file radical land reform bill /A6

FIREWORKS makers oppose ban proposal /A11

Gov't, MILF start informal peace talks

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE GOVERNMENT WILL OPEN INFORMAL peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) today in Kuala Lumpur to finalize the agreement on ancestral domain, Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza announced that the government panel led by chief negotiator Rodolfo Garcia was now supportive of the expansion of the Muslim territory in Mindanao, a ticklish issue that had led to an impasse in the talks in September last year.

The informal talks in Malaysia, which is brokering the talks—will usher in the resumption of the formal peace negotiations soon, said Dureza after he attended a National Security Council Cabinet group meeting in Malacañang.

"There will be a formal resumption of talks if things will go well in (today's) meeting," said Dureza who was optimistic the signing of an agreement "on the bigger issue of ancestral domain" could take place soon, "maybe within the month or so."

He said both panels could hammer out a final peace agreement once the ancestral domain issue was settled.

Both panels have clashed on the number of villages to be included in a proposed juridical body which the Moro rebels seek to establish, and whether this should go through a referendum or not.

The two panels had earlier agreed that the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) would constitute the core of the future Bangsamoro Juridical Entity.

"If we can hurdle this, we are very confident we can move very quickly on the other issues," said Dureza.

These issues involve economic development in the ARMM, a ceasefire, and other "residual issues" such as governance, implementation of the peace agreement, framework and integration of MILF rebels into the Armed Forces, he said.

Glorietta probe at 80%—cops

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police will have accomplished only 80 percent of its investigation into the Glorietta 2 explosion on Monday, a month after the tragedy in which 11 people were killed and more than a hundred injured.

But Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), told reporters yesterday the PNP would have "something substantial" to report on Monday.

"By that time the confusion will be clarified," Barias said of the investigation into the incident which PNP bomb investigators have theorized was a gas explosion but which the owners of the mall have contested.

Barias said members of the Inter-Agency Arson Task Force (IATF) are combing through the basement of the mall in search of more clues and will finish the task by Friday.

"By Friday, they will come up with their initial report, so that on Monday, we will have something substantial [to report] than a day-to-day bulletin," Barias said.

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ORIX METRO

Pain keeps Saguisag on respirator

THE PAIN FROM SOME OF HIS cracked ribs prevented doctors from taking former Sen. Rene Saguisag off his breathing apparatus yesterday.

"Breathing on his own requires him to move his chest and this causes pain from his fractured ribs ... We're looking to address the pain concern," said Eric Nubla, Makati Medical Center's head of patient relations.

He said Saguisag whose condition remained on the "upswing," might have to stay in the intensive care unit for a longer period.

In an earlier medical bulletin, Nubla said Saguisag could be moved out of the ICU by the weekend, adding that this was not official, just his "personal assessment."

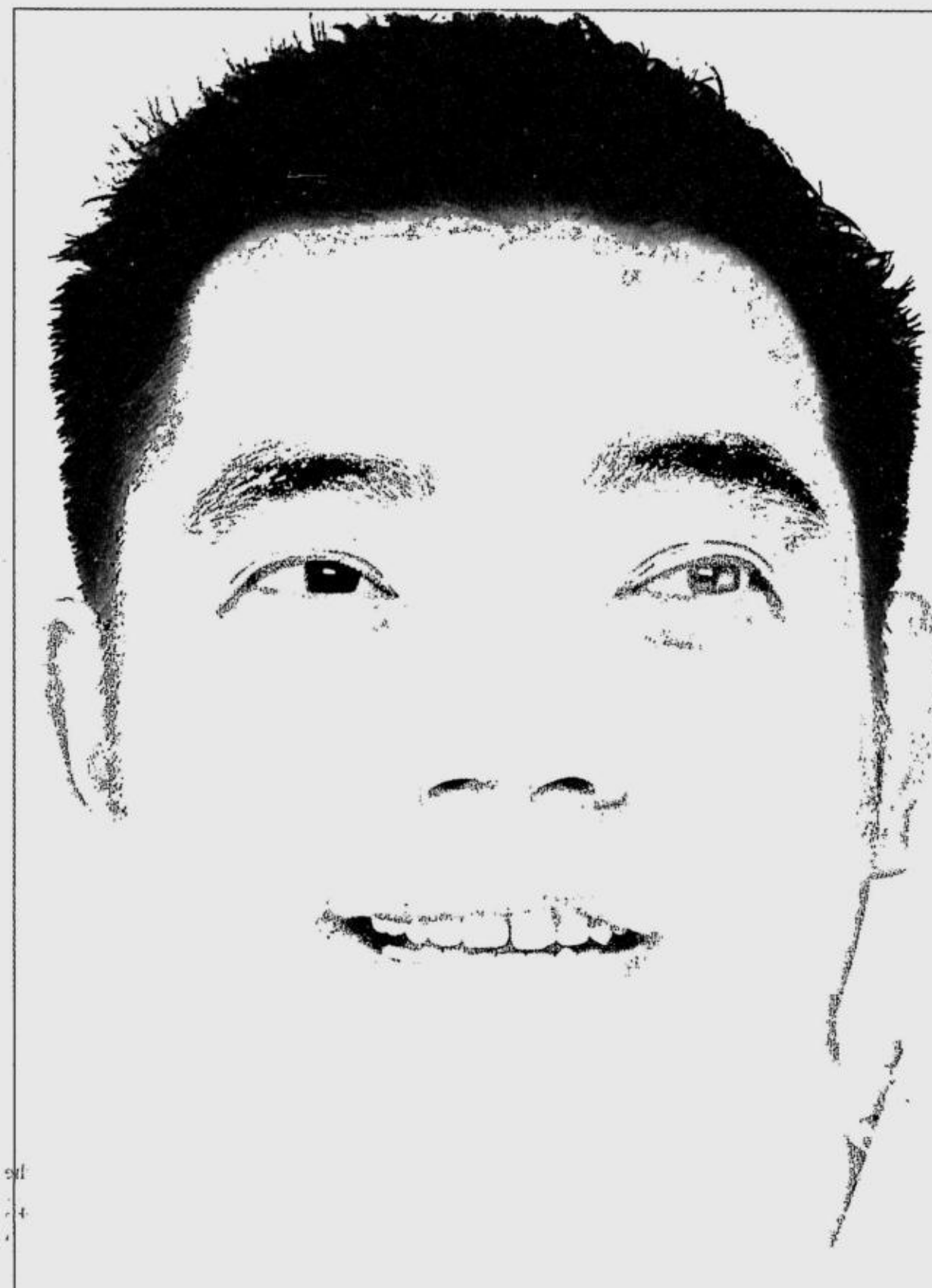
He said Saguisag seemed to be coping well, days after he was told of his wife Dulce's death in the car accident they were involved in.

"He has plenty of support through interaction with his family," Nubla told reporters in the hospital lobby. "He's in good spirits ... He seems to be handling it well. He's more communicative. In fact, he received more guests today."

Nubla said that once the tube that was inserted in his airway and attached to a respirator was removed, Saguisag would be able to speak freely and it was likely that he could be moved to a regular room.

He said an expert on pain management was looking into Saguisag's case.

Asked if it was likely Saguisag would not be able to attend his wife's burial on Friday, Nubla said: "I guess you can say that." *DJ Yap*



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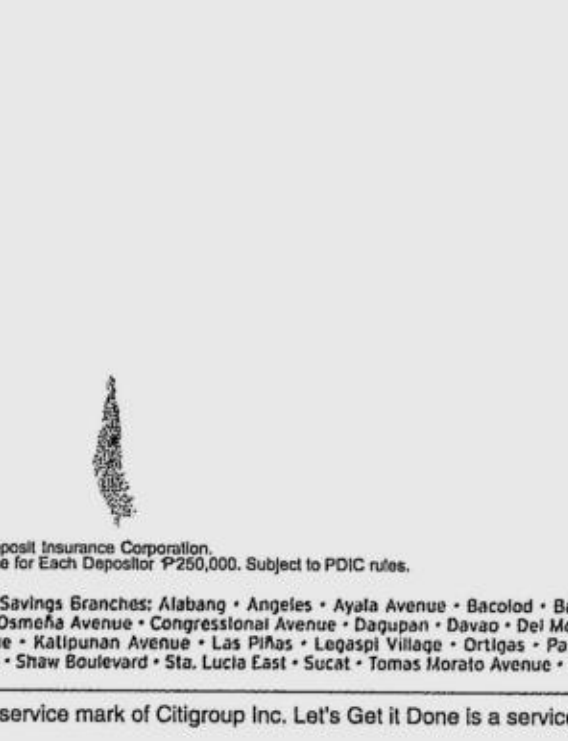
Lyn Ching-Pascual

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Carmi Martin

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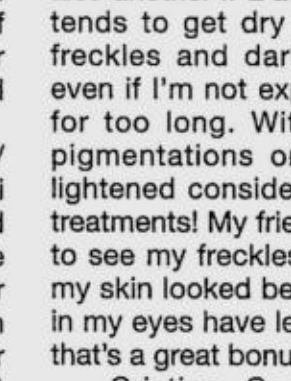
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GMA blames too much politicking for poverty

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo yesterday blamed too much politicking for the poverty in the country and asked Filipinos to help her fight the "heartless and soulless" politicians and groups who are ready to use force to obtain their goal.

The President made the remarks at the start of a meeting yesterday of the National Security Council Cabinet group.

In her opening statement, the President said there were many reasons behind the tragedies that had befallen 12-year-old Marianet Amper and Comelec chief lawyer Alioden Dalaig but she wanted to focus only on one of these reasons and that was too much politics in the country.

She was referring to Amper who killed herself purportedly because of her family's poverty and Dalaig, the chief legal officer at the Commission on Elections who was shot to death at the weekend by unknown assailants.

"Many people are poor because there are Filipino leaders who place politicking and their self-interest and ambitions above that of the nation," the President said in Filipino.

"And there are politicians and groups who are heartless and soulless and ready to use force to obtain their ambitions and objectives," she said.

Ms Arroyo said a "preoccupation with politics past and present" will not help the country move forward.

Tired of political rhetoric

She said the people were tired of "negative political rhetoric," chiding lawmakers for not doing their job of legislating.

"We call on legislators to stop the political wrangling and start legislating," the President said, the third time she had made the call in a week.

The President called on the nation, including its leaders, to fight the politics that results in violence, corruption and the neglect of the poor.

"This will not be easy but we have to resolve this so that the problem of poverty, violence and conflicts in the country will not worsen," she said.

She said the government should focus on creating jobs, lowering prices and providing affordable housing, among other things.

This was why the Cabinet meeting yesterday focused on bringing peace to Mindanao and providing more services to the poor such as clean water, education and the P1-billion fund that she recently ordered released to fight hunger and poverty.

Political reforms

The President said it was fortunate the economy continued to improve and, because her administration had implemented economic reforms, it was time to push for political reforms.

"Let's work to lessen conflicts, fight corruption, stop violence and put on top priority the welfare of the ordinary people," the President said.

The meeting came on the eve of the revival of the Senate inquiry into two issues against the administration: The alleged cash gifts distributed at Malacañang meetings to congressmen and governors allegedly to buy their support against Ms Arroyo's impeachment, and the allegedly anomalous deal on the National Broadband Network project with a Chinese company that implicated her and her husband.

According to two officials present at the meeting, there was no discussion of any new destabilization attempts against the administration.

They said the agenda had to do with developments in the peace process, involving the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Moro National Liberation Front and the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front. ***Christine O. Avendaño***

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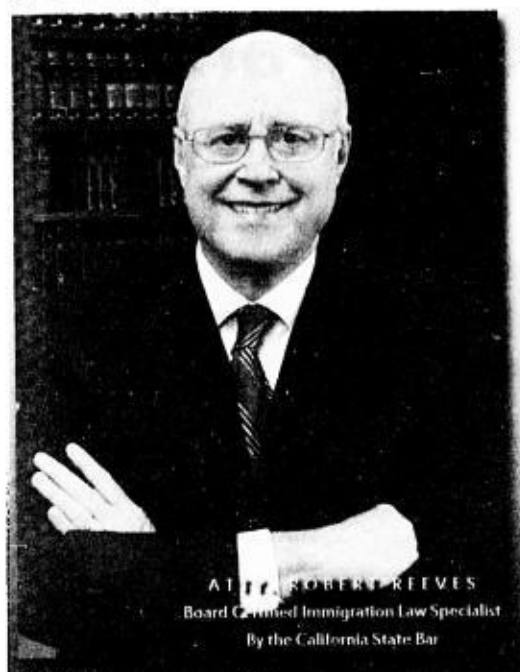

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Senate vows to pass '08 budget by December

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SENATE WILL WORK TO PASS THE budget by next month so Congress can approve and submit it to Malacañang before the end of the year, said Senate President Manuel Villar.

The House of Representatives on Monday passed the proposed P1.227 trillion national budget for 2008 on third and final reading.

Rolled-over budget

If approved by Congress, this will end three years of the government having to work with a rolled-over budget.

The House is expected to transmit today the budget bill it approved to the Senate, which has been holding parallel budget hearings.

"This is good news because the House was able to pass the budget by November. We will make sure the Senate passes the budget before 2007 ends," Villar said in Filipino.

"This will be good for the economy because if the budget is enacted before 2007, we will regain the investors' respect," he added.

The House and Senate will still have to reconcile their versions of the budget bill before submitting it to Malacañang for President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature.

In the past three years, the government had been forced to operate on reenacted national budgets because of Congress' failure to pass Malacañang's proposed budget on time.

If Villar makes good on his word, it will be the first time in recent years that Congress would pass the national budget before the end of the year.

The House approved the President's budget intact, but realigned about P30 billion from automatic debt payment appropriations, transferring the amount to education and health.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, chair of the House appropriations committee, steered the budget's passage in the House.

His Senate counterpart, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the finance committee, said his committee will report the Senate budget bill for floor debates on Nov. 26.

Relevant and transparent

Villar said the Senate will scrutinize the P8 billion allocation for antipoverty programs "to see to it that the propoor programs are relevant, realistic and transparent."

The House-approved budget gave the education and public works departments the biggest outlays, with P145.975 billion and P94.461 billion, respectively.

The defense department received P56.053 billion; interior and local government, P52.609 billion; agriculture, P23.756 billion; transportation and communications, P22.339 billion; health, P16.259 billion; agrarian reform, P13.006 billion; justice, P10.184 billion, and foreign affairs, P10.053 billion.

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 8 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Girl, 11, loses hope, hangs herself"—misstated the age of Mariannet Amper, the girl from Davao City who committed suicide. Amper was 12—not 11—years old.

* * *

THE SAME MISTAKE appeared in the Nov. 13 issue in Conrado de Quiros' "There's the Rub" column—"Corruption kills"—on Page A10 of the Opinion section.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 11 ISSUE, a front-page story— "RP choirs harvest medals in int'l chorale tilts"—misstated the name of a choral group that won an award in the First Asian Choir Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia. The group, which won a gold diploma in the mixed youth choir category, is the Lyceum of the Philippines University Chorale—not the Lyceum University of the Philippines Chorale.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 12 ISSUE, the editorial on Page A14 of the Opinion section—"Replacing Abalos"—misstated that lawyer Romulo Macalintal was among those Malacañang had considered for the post of election commissioner. Macalintal was not on Malacañang's short list of candidates for the Commission on Elections post, to which Moslemen Macarambon was eventually appointed.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 13 ISSUE, John Nery's "Newsstand" column on Page A11 of the Opinion section—"Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition"—misspelled the surname of a cofounder of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty. The cofounder's name is Fr. Robert Sirico—not Siroco.

* * *

THE SAME COLUMN misstated the name of the writer of the song, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition," as well as the period when the song was written. Frank Loesser—not Irving Berlin—wrote the song during World War II—not Woodrow Wilson's war (World War I).

* * *

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Pinoys formally welcome Benedict's ambassador

ARCHBISHOP Adams gets a warm Filipino welcome at the airport on Nov. 1. JESS YUSON

THE LOCAL CHURCH HIERARCHY FORmally welcomed Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, the new papal nuncio to the Philippines, with a liturgical celebration in his honor yesterday at the Manila Cathedral.

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president and Jaro Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo read this message for Adams: As the Pope's pastoral link to the Philippines, one of the papal nuncio's challenges would be the fact that majority of the Catholics in Asia are here.

Lagdameo expressed the Filipinos' wish for Pope Benedict XVI to visit the Philippines.

"The Filipino people, in fact, would most gladly welcome in person the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, whose worthy ambassador you are," he said.

Lagdameo, in behalf of the 130 bishops of the CBCP, expressed the hope that Adams would spend many years in the Philippines and even retire here as many American missionaries have done.

"As we Filipinos would say, 'Feel at home with us,'" he said.

Two of the country's cardinals participated in the liturgical celebration. Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales led the welcome ceremonies for the new apostolic nuncio while Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal gave the homily. Adams himself presided over the Mass.

Adams, 63, arrived in the country on Nov. 1 and was welcomed by Rosales along with other bishops.

He replaced Archbishop Fernando Filoni who was appointed Substitute of the Vatican Secretariat of State in June 2007.

The new papal envoy, the 15th Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, was born in Philadelphia, USA, on Aug. 24, 1944, and was ordained a priest in 1970.

Adams has served with the Holy See's Diplomatic Service since 1976 and has been assigned to Rwanda, Kenya, Honduras, Ireland, Denmark and Czech Republic. *Beverly T. Natividad*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Frances Xavier Cabrini

1st Reading: Wis 6:1-11
Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee, and as he entered a village, 10 lepers came to meet him. Keeping their distance, they called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Then Jesus said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Now, as they went their way, they found they were cured. One of them, as soon as he saw he was cleansed, turned back praising God in a loud voice, and throwing himself on his face before Jesus, he gave him thanks. This man was a Samaritan.

"Was no one found to return and give praise to God but this alien?" And Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you."

Commentary

The Word of God warns the leaders of the world that they will be judged, not just as individuals but for all the effects of their collective actions/decisions in the world. And God's judgment will be swift and terrible on those whose choices disobeyed the laws of God, and disregarded the care of the people and the lives of all. Those who were great in the world will know the judgment of God as surely and more clearly as those who had no power. If those in power are wise, they will seek the Word of the Lord. We need to pray for and speak this wisdom to our leaders, in the church and in our nations.

Jesus heals 10 lepers, all of them—all of us in our churches/communities. He commands that we do what is necessary according to the law so that we can live in society and contribute to it. But only one gives thanks, only one acknowledges Jesus' power and goodness and blesses God. And this person was not even a believer. Does God look at all of us (the other nine) and say, "Where are you?"

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Militant solons file radical land reform bill

By Jerome Aning

MILITANT PARTY-LIST CONGRESSMEN filed yesterday a Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (GARB) which provides for the radical expropriation of big lands throughout the country and their distribution to farmers' cooperatives and workers' unions for free.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran submitted the House bill, which was drafted in a convention involving the peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, Amihan-National Federation of Peasant Women and Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura.

'Class war'

Aimed as a replacement for the 20-year-old Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the bill was co-authored by Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño; and Gabriela Women's Party Representatives Liza Maza and Luzviminda Ilagan.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano predicted a "class war" in Congress, saying they expected land-owning legislators to block the measure.

Mariano said that despite previous attempts at land reform, "seven out of 10 peasants do not own the land they till."

He said the cost of farming had risen to P14,280 per hectare, leaving farmers just over P5,000 in profits per cropping to pay their debts and land rent. "Usury is so rampant in the countryside that interest rates for loans reach up to 400 percent," Mariano said.

"Land grabbing and evictions, as well as crop conversions, are also very rampant but when farmers stand up to oppose these, the military is sent in to silence them," Mariano charged.

The filing of the GARB coincided with the third year anniversary of sugar worker rallies at Tarlac's Hacienda Luisita—owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino. A violent dispersal at the hacienda on Nov. 16, 2004, left 14 people dead.

"A genuine land reform or the free distribution of land would mean that peasants can control their own destinies, because they would not be tied to the oppressive and exploitative relations of production prevalent now in the countryside. With this, their purchasing power will increase and the whole economy would definitely get a big boost," Mariano said.

Genuine land reform as envisioned by the militant groups would entail the nationalization of all agricultural lands and their distribution to organized farmers for free.

Technical, financial assistance

The policy of expropriation with compensation shall only apply to landlords who have a record of "actively supporting" progressive land reform. Despotic landlords with criminal records will not be entitled to compensation, the radical rural-based groups added.

To increase productivity in the agricultural sector, GARB provides for technical and financial assistance in the form of subsidies for the purchase or rent of farm machinery and equipment, and low interest or interest-free credit within specific periods. Its proponents believe this will enable them to expand production and raise productivity in order to assure a stable supply of food and other agricultural products.

Agrarian reform and agricultural experts have yet to comment on their proposal.

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DEATH ROW APPEAL. Family members and supporters of Malou Ranario rally at Plaza Miranda in support of the international day of action to save the life of the domestic helper facing the death penalty in Kuwait for killing her employer. Vigils and dialogues were held simultaneously in Kuwait embassies in different parts of the world yesterday as Ranario faced the Kuwaiti Supreme Court. REM ZAMORA

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Baguio project faces delay

BAGUIO CITY—THE completion of a P120-million flyover project awarded to a contractor that administration Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile claimed also won the $500-million North Luzon Railway (NorthRail) project has been delayed.

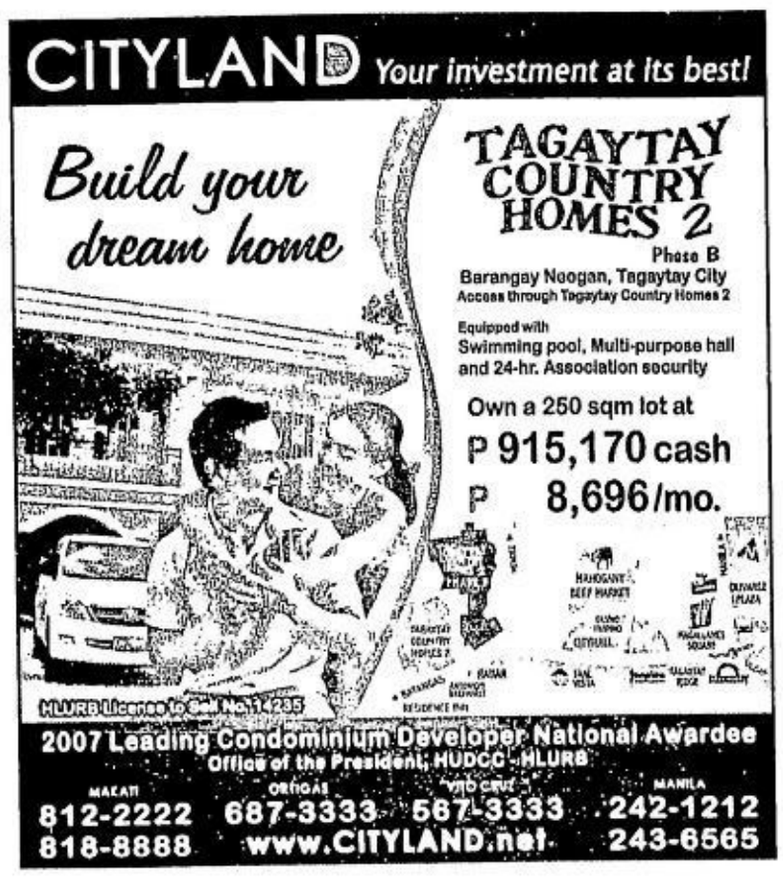
The delay is expected to bring traffic in this city to a standstill, particularly during the Christmas holidays, this summer capital's peak tourist season.

Goldrich Construction Co., the contractor for the flyover project, has been given until January next year to complete the work.

The city council shut down most of the roads leading to the flyover, after being assured by William Go, president of Goldrich, that it now had access to a P64-million outlay to complete the project, acting Mayor Daniel Fariñas said on Thursday.

Go was identified by Enrile during a press conference Thursday as the contractor close to Speaker Jose de Venecia who bagged the NorthRail project which aims to link Metro Manila by rail to Clark in Pampanga.

The flyover will connect Marcos Highway and Kennon Road, the two main access routes to this city. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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11	Loule Mark D. Iligan	Ateneo De Davao University
12	Angelo D. Gamat	Notre Dame of Dadiangas University
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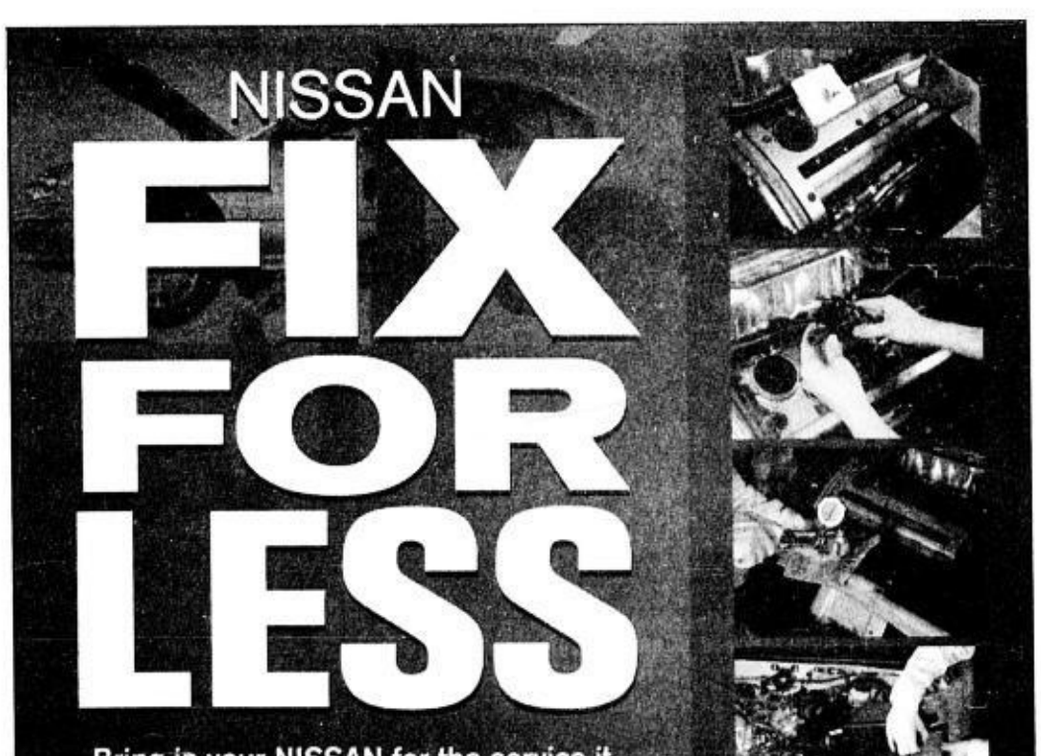

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55 killed in barangay poll violence, PNP reports

By Alcuin Papa

A TOTAL OF 55 PERSONS DIED during the recent barangay elections, the Philippine National Police said yesterday as it wrapped up its security operations for the Oct. 29 polls.

According to Director General Avelino Razon, the PNP recorded a total of 99 election-related violent incidents between Sept. 29, the start of the election period, and Oct. 29. Forty-five people were injured in election-related violent incidents around the country, the PNP said.

Razon said the figures were an improvement over those of the 2002 barangay elections, in which the PNP recorded 159 election-related violent incidents and 75 dead.

The 45-day election period for the barangay elections officially ends today, and the nationwide prohibition on the carrying of firearms imposed by the Comelec is to be lifted at midnight.

Most peaceful

Razon described the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls as the "most peaceful and widely participated in electoral exercise in recent years."

"The generally peaceful situation before, during and after the polls is largely due to the efforts of the Commission on Elections in instituting reforms in the electoral system with the assistance of the police, military, local government units, NGO volunteers and the cooperation of the citizens," Razon said.

He said the PNP was vigorously pursuing criminal cases against 542 persons arrested for violation of the Omnibus Election Code and firearms ban during the elections.

Razon also ordered all PNP regional directors and heads of operating units to ensure the successful prosecution of cases filed in court against the gun ban violators.

The PNP fielded 73,000 personnel to perform election duties during the polls, backed by a complement of military personnel, particularly in places identified as areas of concern.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said one police officer was killed and two other lawmen were wounded while performing election duties during the period.

In the May 2007 national and local elections, 18 police personnel were killed and 32 others were wounded while performing election-related duties.

"Our experience in the national and local elections held earlier in May allowed us to identify some weak points in our security operations which we were able to correct during the October 29 barangay and SK elections," Pagdilao said.

He said the PNP will recommend that the Comelec hold special elections in areas of the country with a history of political violence, intense political rivalry and presence of threat groups.

Slain gov's son appeals to gov't

ILOILO CITY—THE SON OF SLAIN FORmer Antique Gov. Evelio Javier has called on the government to oppose the refugee bid in Canada of Rodolfo Pacificador who is wanted for his father's murder.

"They should file an opposition through the Philippine embassy," said Francis Gideon Javier in a telephone interview.

Javier was reacting to a recent ruling of the Federal Court of Canada (FCC) ordering a third hearing on Pacificador's bid for refugee status.

Pacificador, who has been living in Canada for 20 years, is among the principal accused in Javier's murder on Feb. 11, 1986.

Pacificador's father, former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, was acquitted of charges in the killing in October 2004. Eight of his supporters, however, mainly his security men, were convicted.

The FCC last month reversed a ruling of Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) denying Rodolfo's application. It ordered a new hearing by a different panel of the IRB to hear his petition.

Arturo Pacificador welcomed the Canadian court ruling.

"It just shows the Canadian courts firmly believe my son will be persecuted and will not get a fair trail in a Philippine court," he said in a telephone interview. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*

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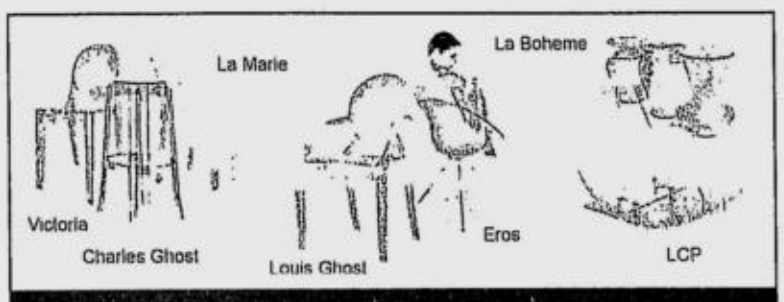
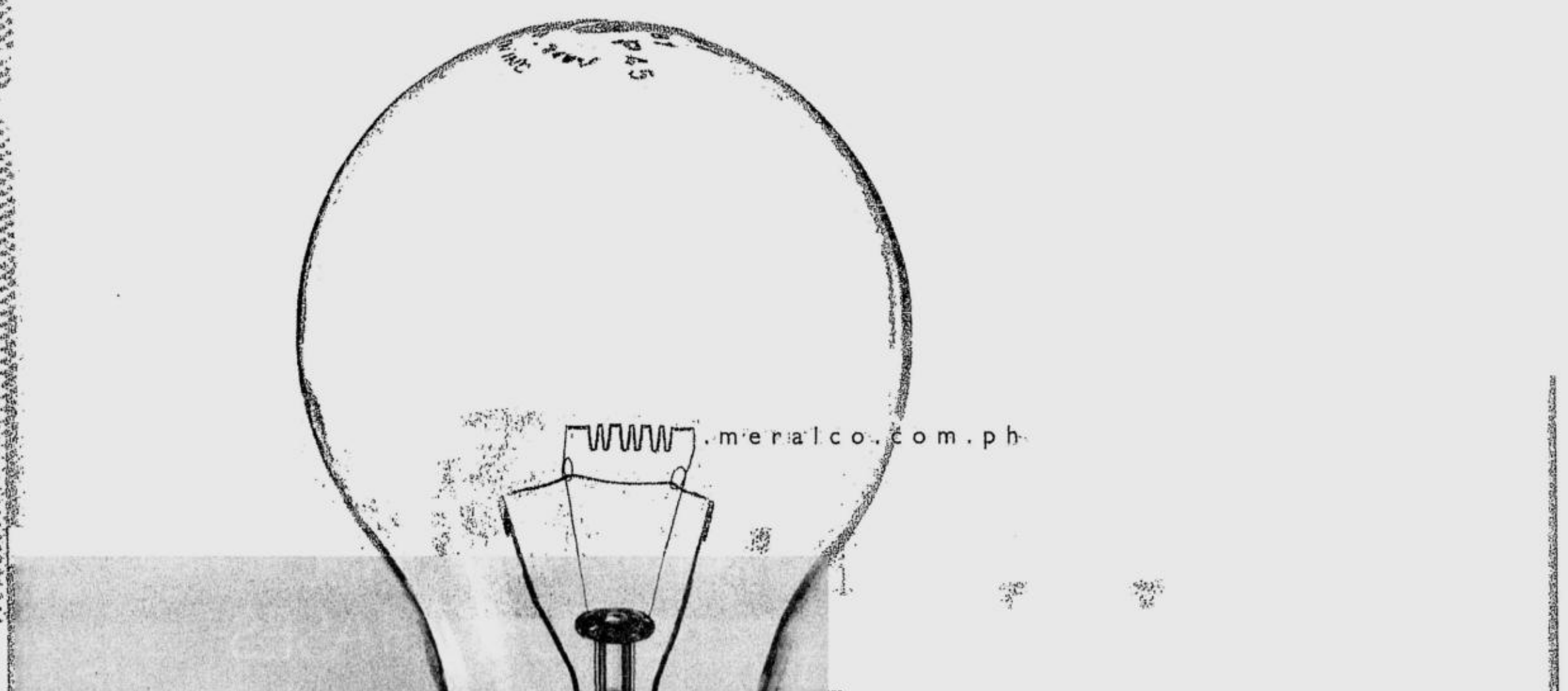




Senate to compel Neri to attend broadband probe

THE SENATE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE will compel Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri to attend its next hearing after he failed to return in the ongoing probe of the aborted National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

In a press conference, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said that most of the senators had agreed to subpoena Neri to appear before the committee next Tuesday.

Cayetano noted that Neri, after his first and only appearance at the Senate where he claimed that former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos had offered him a P200-million bribe to fast-track the NBN project of ZTE Corp. of China, had failed to fulfill his promise to attend the last three hearings either because he was sick or was abroad.

Cayetano said the senators had become impatient with Neri who had invoked executiive privilege when pressed to reveal the President's instructions after he told her of the bribe offer by Abalos.

Businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III claimed that Neri related to him that the President had ordered the project be approved despite being informed of the bribe. Neri vehemently denied the claim.

The blue ribbon committee is expected to hold two or three more meetings within the month before wrapping up its probe and coming up with a report. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

TEXT TANGO: Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita shares a text message with Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane while waiting for President Arroyo to arrive at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room at the Palace to preside over the National Anti-Poverty Commission Cabinet Group Meeting. LYN RILLON

PERSONAL APPEARANCE at the Palace on Tuesday, a first for CHEd Chair Romulo Neri since his testimony in the Senate probe of the Chinese broadband deal in which he said ex-Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos tried to bribe him but invoked executive privilege when it came to his conversation with President Arroyo. LYN RILLON

Naia launches new campaign: We walk the extra smile

From page A1

such as "Malaysia: Truly Asia" and "Amazing Thailand," Miaa is capitalizing on the Filipino's innate friendliness to "give a new glow" to the Naia and the domestic airport.

"Even when we are in distress, we are still smiling. After we cry, we smile. It has become a trait we're known for," said Miaa General Manager Alfonso Cusi during the launch of the new smile program at the aging Naia Terminal 1 yesterday.

Hence, Naia smiles and says: "We walk the extra smile."

Miaa launched a smile campaign in 2004 and even came up with a jingle, "Your Smile, Our Joy." The initiative, however, was implemented only among Miaa employees, excluding other agencies at the airports.

Intensive and expanded

This time, a more intensive and expanded program will be enforced among all airport workers, from Miaa's 1,500 regular employees to the hundreds of contractual workers to the personnel of all government agencies serving air travelers.

By merging passenger enhancement programs with a bright and ambitious marketing strategy, Miaa will try to prove how people and services can overshadow whatever Manila lacks in facilities.

"I've said this many times. Yes, we have inferior facilities compared to our neighbors. We can't do anything about the facilities now [because] it will take time before we can change them," said Cusi, referring to legal problems holding up the opening of the mothballed Naia Terminal 3.

"But let's not be discouraged. Let's bring out our strength—our people. When it comes to people, we're the best. In all countries, our workers are in demand because of our attitude, because of our smile," he said.

This, while Miaa continues to implement what little improvements it can to the aging international and domestic terminals where, as airport development chief Tirso Serrano said in introducing the program, there's "little room for expansion."

Highlighting OFW

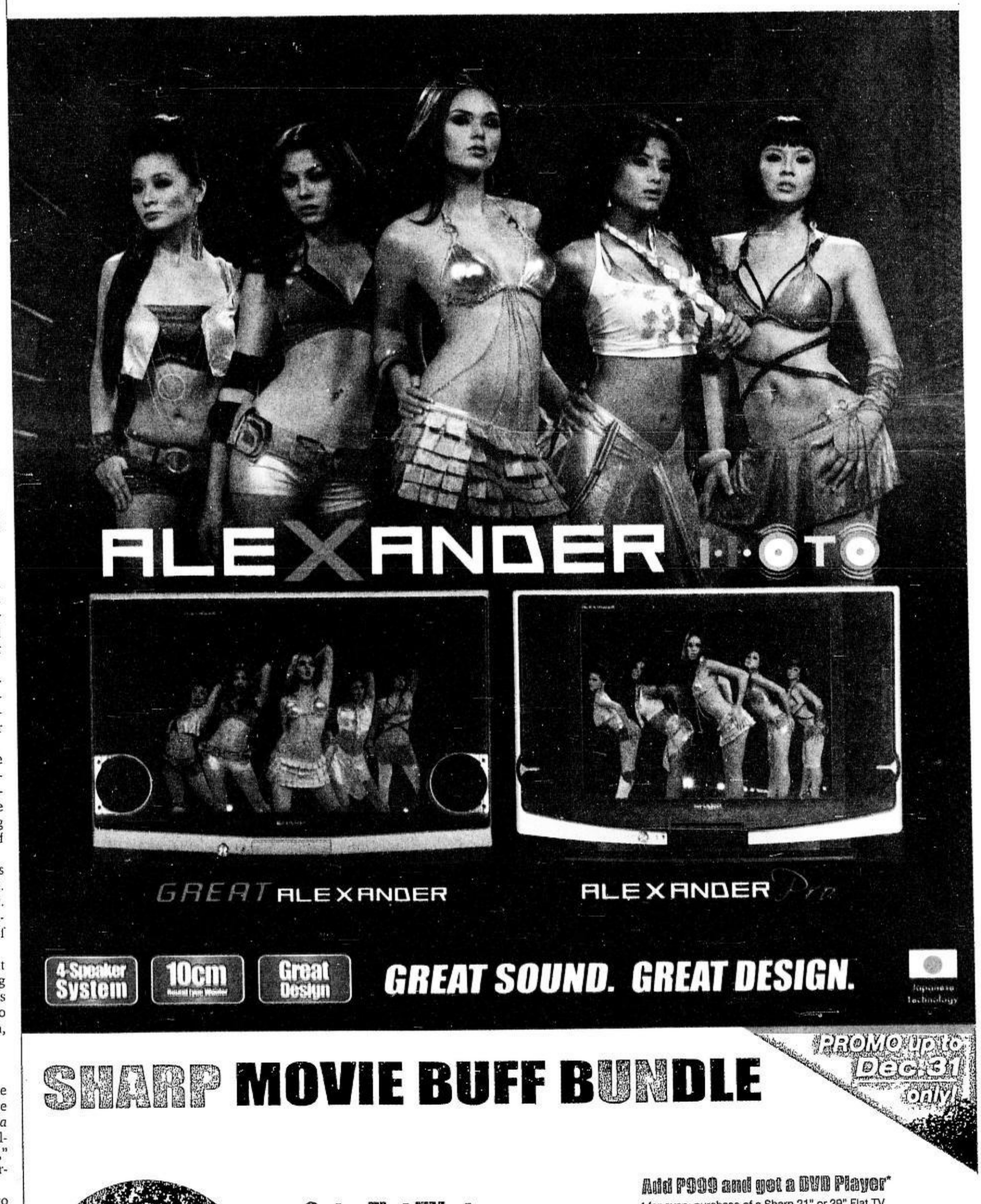
"We are now saying that we will go the extra smile. But when can we say that we have become the smiling airport? *Baka sabihin nila*, (they might say) we are smiling because of the cracks in our facilities," Cusi said, cracking up the audience of airport officials, workers and guests.

Serrano said the campaign would go hand in hand with an advocacy campaign highlighting the overseas Filipino worker (OFW), which would be undertaken through a partnership with The Filipino Channel, the overseas broadcast arm of ABS-CBN.

Miaa had undertaken preliminary steps toward the smile program early this year by issuing a passenger decorum handbook, a handy manual laying down decorum and grooming guidelines for Naia's frontline personnel.

"The process of realizing, redefining—they all require action. Just launching this program is not enough. We wear the button but we do nothing—what will happen to us? We will just be fooling ourselves," Cusi said.

"The challenge begins now. We want to be an airport that will go the extra smile. We have to support that with action."



Impeachment complaint lies in state in House

By Norman Bordadora and Christian Esguerra

ON MONDAY, THE HOUSE COMMITtee on justice moved to kill the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido by declaring it sufficient in form. The committee deliberations were to resume today and a declaration that it lacked substance was expected.

By administration reckoning, the complaint will be killed and buried before the end of this week.

Saying they would not take matters sitting down, however, opponents of Ms Arroyo yesterday immediately served notice they would elevate the impeachment battle to the Supreme Court.

"Hopefully, within the week this will be finished," proadministration Rep. Matias Defensor, chair of the House committee on justice, said after his panel declared the supposedly sham impeachment complaint—filed by lawyer Roel Pulido—sufficient in form while rejecting an opposition attempt to strengthen it through an amendment.

The justice committee is scheduled to meet again today, this time to determine whether the Pulido complaint is sufficient in substance.

The opposition expects the committee, dominated by proadministration lawyers, to finally rule the Pulido complaint as lacking in substance, effectively killing it.

Such an action would have the effect of immunizing Ms Arroyo against a more formidable impeachment case because House rules bar the filing of more than one impeachment complaint against the President in a year.

Senior Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez of Parañaque said the entire minority bloc would boycott today's justice committee hearing following its rejection of the supplemental complaint filed by lawyer Adel Tamano.

Without the Tamano addendum, the Pulido complaint would remain toothless and have no chance in administration-dominated committee.

"The outcome is like debating whether the sun will rise tomorrow—you already know the answer," Golez told the INQUIRER.

The Pulido complaint is seeking the removal of Ms Arroyo on grounds of betrayal of public trust because of her supposed failure to take action on reports that bribery marred the award of a $329-million National Broadband Network deal to China's ZTE Corp. Ms Arroyo later scrapped the deal.

The committee's rejection on Monday of the Tamano addendum sparked a walkout by the minority bloc.

Defensor said the committee had been fair in handling the impeachment case and could continue to be fair "in the sense that we will go by the rules."

Asked if the dismissal of the Pulido complaint would render moot the Tamano addendum and another impeachment complaint filed by the progressive bloc in the House, Defensor said: "Yes. That's how I look at it."

Tamano said he would question in the Supreme Court the Defensor committee's decision to brush aside his addendum meant to strengthen the Pulido complaint.

"I plan to bring this to the Supreme Court because the allegations of corruption and bribery and the payola in Malacañang are too serious," Tamano told reporters.

He was referring to the distribution of paper bags each filled with cash ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 to congressmen and governors who attended separate meetings with Ms Arroyo at Malacañang on Oct. 11.

Tamano said he would bring his case to the high court "sometime next week or so."

Batasan bombed; Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar killed

From page A1

government," De Venecia said.

In a televised statement at midnight, Ms Arroyo said she would like to assure Filipinos and foreign countries that her government would hunt down those responsible.

"We call on the people to avoid speculation, allegations and rumors that might create confusion, fear and divisions," she said.

Police said initial investigation showed Akbar, 47, a former governor of strife-torn Basilan island, who was reportedly directly hit by the blast, might have been the target.

Akbar died of severe burns and head injuries at 10:25 p.m. at the Far Eastern University Hospital where he was transferred from General Malvar Hospital near the Batasan. Akbar's aide, Kimnar Indanan, was seriously wounded, suffering burns in the face and leg and a broken arm.

Akbar's car was eight meters away from the explosion.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Geary Barias said Akbar was apparently about to get into his car when the explosion occurred.

"The initial information we got was that the driver of Congressman Akbar usually parked their car in the south wing near where the motorcycles were. So it seemed they had developed a pattern and who ever was responsible had timed the explosion," Barias said.

Friends said Akbar was to meet today with Mindanao governors prior to the resumption of the Malaysian-brokered peace talks with Moro separatist rebels.

The second fatality was identified as Marcial Taldo, driver of Gabriela party-list Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan, who herself was wounded, said Barias.

Taldo died on the spot, said Barias. He was found in the driver's seat with a "very big wound in the nape."

A member of Negros Oriental Rep. Henry Teves' staff, identified as Maan Bustaliño, died of severe burns around midnight.

Teves was wounded and was reported in serious condition with multiple shrapnel wounds and burns at St. Luke's Medical Center. He is a grandson of former Rep. Herminio Teves and nephew of Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

Also reported seriously wounded was Ismael Lim, driver of Gabriela party-list Rep. Liza Maza.

Bomb remotely detonated

Barias said the bomb was apparently left on a motorcycle parked near Ilagan's vehicle and was remotely detonated. He could not immediately describe the type of explosive.

"This is not conclusive, but it looks like it was Congressman Akbar who was the target," said Barias.

WAHAB AKBAR; 47

Barias said no bomb parts so far had been retrieved. He said there was a crater of "around three feet on the bomb site."

In all, four vehicles and two motorcycles were damaged in the blast. The owner of one of the motorcycles was identified as a cameraman of Congress. "We are questioning him now.

De Venecia said he had spoken with President Macapagal-Arroyo. "The President is very concerned about what took place here because it was only a few weeks ago that the Glorietta incident took place.

Eleven people were killed and more than 100 were wounded in the explosion that hit the Glorietta shopping mall in Makati City on Oct. 19. The incident is still under investigation. The cause of that blast has yet to be established. *(See story on Page A2.)*

Attempt to destabilize

De Venecia said the usual House session would resume today after an overnight security sweep of the Batasan compound. "We have to show that we are not afraid of terrorists," he said.

Asked who was behind the bombing, De Venecia said, "Only a terrorist would explode a bomb."

Troops went on heightened alert in Metro Manila and checkpoints were set up on strategic streets.

Rep. Prospero Nograles said that the bomb attack at the Batasan was a first. He said security measures were being reviewed there. He said security was lax last night, pointing out that a pre-Christmas flea market had been set up on the Batasan grounds by the employees cooperative.

Maza, quoting a member of her staff, said the explosion hit Akbar's Fortuner sport utility vehicle, which was parked on the driveway of the south wing of the Batasan complex, where the House holds sessions.

Blast like thunder

The Gabriela lawmaker said she and Ilagan had left the session hall together

TEVES

ILAGAN

but the latter went straight to the south wing while she passed by her office.

"I heard a loud explosion and thought at first it was thunder but realized it was too loud to be thunder," Maza said. "When I looked out my window, I saw a vehicle on fire and near that vehicle was the car of Congresswoman Ilagan."

She said she immediately sent a member of her staff down to check the situation and was told "there were bodies sprawled throughout the lobby."

The bomb ripped off part of the ceiling of the Batasan lobby.

De Venecia condemned "in the strongest terms this cowardly and dastardly attack against the House of Representatives."

"I was lucky. I had left a few minutes before the explosion," De Venecia said. "There are many threats against us personally, against some members of the House." *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Alcuin Papa and Nikko Dizon*

Old Erap foe tapped to go after his luxury cars

From page A1

nonetheless for a different offense. That's the law of karma."

But for all that, Berroya said he had no plans to use his position to get back at the ousted President.

"The Sandiganbayan sheriff delivered a letter requesting the LTO to furnish them a copy of all [the papers] of the vehicles registered to Estrada. That's my only role in the forfeiture of his assets," Berroya said.

Bad blood

The bad blood between Estrada and Berroya goes a long way, starting when the former was the Vice President and head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC).

Berroya, along with SPO4 Jose Vienes, Francisco "Kit" Mateo and 13 others, was charged on Sept. 22, 1993, by the PACC's Task Force Habagat, then headed by now Sen. Panfilo Lacson, with the kidnapping of Taiwanese Chou Cheung Yih alias Jack Chou.

Berroya was convicted in 1995 by Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 and incarcerated at the New Bilibid Prisons for three years.

The Supreme Court subsequently overturned the RTC's decision, and he was released on Dec. 12, 1997.

During Estrada's presidential campaign nine years ago, Berroya linked him to a plot to kill former President Fidel Ramos and to other corruption and illegal activities.

As President, Estrada ruled out a promotion for Berroya, who had topped a list of senior police officials recommended for promotion by the PNP's Senior Officers' Placement and Promotions Board in 1999.

Even his wristbands

The Sandiganbayan Special Division issued writs of execution on Oct. 30 and on Nov. 5 directing the sheriff to forfeit in favor of the government Estrada's assets amounting to more than P700 million (including the P545 million in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation account and the P189 million in the Jose Velarde account), as well as the "Boracay Mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City.

But Estrada yesterday said Urieta could check all his personal assets but he would not allow him to confiscate them.

"Let them check my personal properties. I would even let them check my wristbands, but there's no way I would allow them to touch any of my personal properties I worked hard for," he told the INQUIRER by phone.

Urieta said that of the P700 million, the P200 million deposited in a bank account of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation had already been accounted for.

Yesterday, the sheriff's office was waiting for the Equitable-PCI Bank to say how much the money had earned in interest.

For the balance, Urieta said his office was tracking down Estrada accounts in four banks that he refused to name pending verification.

But he clarified that the court would confiscate only Estrada's real properties, such as his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, if the personal assets it had forfeited would fail to satisfy the amount it had indicated in its Sept. 12 decision.

200 'owners'

Berroya said the LTO would help the Sandiganbayan "the best way we can" by verifying the ownership of the vehicles in question.

He said the LTO had its work cut out for it, with at least 200 Joseph Estradas and Joseph Ejercitos registered.

"Of course, they have different middle names, but we have to sift through all of these," he said, adding that so far, the LTO had found at least three registered to Joseph E. Estrada of Polk Street, San Juan, two of which were a 1965 Cadillac (PSY-878) and a Mitsubishi Lancer (PCT-572).

He said there were also at least 11 vehicles registered to "Joseph Ejercito," which were still being verified.

"We found a registration for a 'Joseph Arroyo Estrada' and another for 'Joseph Lacson Estrada.' Those are among our listings of license holders," Berroya said.

"But knowing Erap," Berroya said, referring to Estrada by his nickname, "the vehicles are not under his name."

He added: "The sheriff might have a difficult time."

'Harassment'

In a separate phone interview, a defiant Estrada decried what he described as "harassment."

His eldest son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, also bewailed the "political harassment."

"They probably dislike the idea that we remain with the opposition. We will continue to remain as a member of the opposition up to 2010," the senator said.

The elder Estrada said the Sandiganbayan should act first on his motion to quash the forfeiture order before ordering Urieta to seize his assets.

Estrada said he would fight for the assets that the court was eyeing, particularly his residence in the exclusive subdivision of North Greenhills, his sprawling estate in Tanay, and his cars.

"This seems like harassment," he said. "They cannot just get [my assets]. There's not even a hearing. They should have advised us first," he said. Should he fail to pay the government, the court will be compelled to seize his personal assets to pay for his liabilities.

In an interview with radio dzMM, Estrada called on Urieta to wait for the Sandiganbayan's decision on his motion to quash: "Don't be hasty. Rushing it will not result in anything."

But he said he would follow the law if the court rejected his motion.

Asked how many cars he owned, Estrada said: "I can't count them. There's one for backup; there's one for going to the market."

Chuckling, he said: "No, I'm just joking." He added that there were three cars parked at his North Greenhills residence yesterday, but that not all of the vehicles were registered under his name.

Like the Polk Street house and the Tanay estate, some of the vehicles are owned by the Estrada family's JELP Realty Corp. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Youths in South cash in on call center boom

From page A1

Jade no longer goes to college because no one was financially assisting him. He now works as a liaison officer for the employees' cooperative of Tagum City government and earns P100 daily.

Sam (not his real name), 27, on the other hand, has not been regularly employed for almost a year now. The son of a carpenter, he supports himself and his family from the small fees he gets doing corporate shows and community events.

The difficulty of being a free-lancer is that events do not happen regularly, forcing him to even try writing thesis and other research works for high school and college students, he said.

Both Jade and Sam now see a glimmer of hope when they joined the Training for Work Scholarship Program, a multimillion-peso skills development initiative of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda). They enrolled at the Academia de Davao Inc. to learn the basics of the call center industry.

Job prospects

The two are among some 2,000 people from Southern Mindanao who are benefiting from the program. Graduation will give them opportunities to find jobs in the booming call center industry, like the 1,600 people from the region who have already become call center agents.

That life is difficult is something that Jade avoids to think, as this will only make things worse for him and his younger siblings. He said he would rather see the brighter side of his family's condition and the opportunities coming his way.

Sam has availed himself of a government scholarship program when he enrolled.

Working during the day, Jade is finishing the 100-hour course for call center agents at the school through night classes.

Jade, who took up agricultural engineering course at the state-run University of Southern Philippines in Tagum, was described by his call center mentor, Lorna Rasay, as intelligent.

During a job fair for call center agent aspirants in Tagum last week, Jade passed the interview given by Link2Support, a progressive business outsourcing company.

"Well, I'm really happy. Things are turning really well for me and my family. I learned that I was able to pass the interview level and that alone is already a huge thing for me," he told the INQUIRER by phone.

Tesda scholarship

Getting the scholarship program from Tesda "is very important for me," Jade said.

"Remember that I have to stop going to school because nobody was supporting me. This one is a major opportunity opening doors for more opportunities for me."

Mafel Negrido Gamale, information officer of Tesda-Southern Mindanao, said the program, especially the one for call center agents, had attracted a lot of undergraduate students and job seekers.

"Another factor, of course, is the fact that one applicant can easily pass the exam given to aspiring individuals. Another is the fact that the training is for free," Gamale said.

The program was launched here in May last year with a nationwide budget of P1.06 billion. Next year, another P1 billion will be allocated to benefit those enrolling as welders, medical and legal transcriptionists, animators and software developers, and those who want to be in the household services, hotel and restaurant management and other critical skills.

'Employables'

Gamale said the beneficiaries were labeled as "employables" and "near-hires" or those who possess the required technical skills and competencies.

"Near-hires and employables are the top priorities as they need only enhancement of certain competencies to be given assurance of employment after choosing their desired finishing courses," she said.

Tesda data showed that the employment rate among those who entered the Work for Scholarship Program, especially in the call center sector, was 23.3 percent for Compostela Valley, 25.2 percent for Davao del Norte, 13.1 percent for Davao Oriental, and 20.6 percent for Davao del Sur, which includes Davao City.

Prospects for skilled workers, like call center agents, are bright and the demand is expected to rise each year, Gamale said.

In 2006, Department of Trade and Industry records indicated that the region needed at least 1,000 call center agents, 90 medical transcriptionists, more than 3,000 animators and 88 software developers.

Fireworks makers oppose phaseout proposal

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF MALOLOS—Officials of the Philippine Pyrotechnic Manufacturers and Dealers Association Inc. (PPMDAI) have branded as "absurd" the plan of Health Secretary Francisco Duque III to ban the use of firecrackers by 2010.

Vimie Erese, PPMDAI president, said a ban would leave more than a million people dependent on the P1-billion pyrotechnic industry jobless.

Killing industry

"Many Filipinos who depend on the firecracker industry for their livelihood would go hungry. That plan would kill the firecracker industry in the Philippines," Erese said in Filipino.

She called anew on the Department of Health and other government agencies to support the PPMDAI campaign promoting the safe use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic products, instead of banning them.

Erese said Duque's proposal was unfair because they had been doing their part to reduce, if not put a stop to, accidents caused by fireworks.

Victims increasing

Duque has proposed the gradual phaseout of the private use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic products on the way to a total ban by 2010 because the number of victims of explosions has been rising year on year around the Christmas and New Year holiday.

"From a public health perspective, there is no such thing as a safe firecracker," he said Monday during the launch of the Department of Health's "Iwas-Paputok" campaign for the coming holiday season.

Erese said the PPMDAI had just completed a nationwide series of safety seminars to guide manufacturers and dealers in the proper production and distribution of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic products.

She said they also held dialogues with illegal fireworks manufacturers and dealers to encourage them to legalize their operations.

"A gradual phaseout and total ban will not only impact on the people of Bulacan, especially producers and dealers in Bocaue and Sta. Maria, but on the thousands of people dependent on the industry," Erese said.

Top industry

Bulacan is considered the "fireworks capital" of the country. Firecracker and pyrotechnic manufacturing remains a top industry in the province.

Many Bulacan manufacturers used to operate illegally until 1993 when Republic Act No. 7183 regulated the manufacture, sale and distribution of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices.

Erese said the government is making money from the industry through taxes and permit and other fees paid by manufacturers and distributors.

Sy, Durano, Garcia lead Skal awardees

MALL MAGNATE HENRY SY JR., TOURISM Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia will lead the awardees of Skal International Makati during its 26th anniversary celebration on Nov. 14 at Intercontinental Hotel.

Skal International Makati president Robert Lim Joseph said the awardees will each receive the 19th Skal Tourism Personality Award, which is given to persons who have contributed to the growth and development of the local travel and tourism industry.

"Since 1986 when the awards were first given, Skal has recognized notable individuals for their selfless and dedicated efforts to promote Philippine tourism, and by extension, the economy," Joseph said.

Sy will receive the Special Citation, Tourism Personality Awardee for Mall, Hotel and Resort Industry; Durano, the Government Personality of the Year award, and Garcia, the Local Government Personality of the Year award.

The other awardees are Jaime Zambrano, district sales manager of Kuwait Airways, Airline Personality of the Year; Christian Pirodon, Intercontinental Hotel Manila general manager, Hotel Personality of the Year; Angel Ramos Bognot, president of Afro-Asian Travel & Tours, Travel & Tour Operator Personality of the Year, and Emmanuel Gonzalez, chief executive of Plantation Bay, Resort Personality of the Year.

The Skalleague of the Year award will be presented to Hamad Al-Barrak, marketing director of Overseas Travel, for being an exemplary Skal member not just in the Philippines but in Thailand, Spain, Indonesia and Istanbul.

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RP kids under measles threat

MEASLES COULD kill up to 6,000 children a year in the Philippines unless the country steps up its immunization program, the World Health Organization warned Tuesday.

In a statement from its regional headquarters in Manila, the WHO said the measles outbreak which had plagued the country for almost a year would continue to spread unless more children were vaccinated.

It did not say how many youngsters the disease had killed this year.

The WHO would declare the Philippines measles-free "only if every village vaccinates at least 95 percent of its children," said Soe Nyunt-U, the organization's representative in the Philippines.

"Failure to do so will result in the return of an estimated 6,000 deaths a year of Filipino children from this preventable disease."

The Philippines is halfway through a nationwide antimeasles campaign.

But with two weeks left, only 20 percent of the targeted 8.9 million children aged nine months to three years have been vaccinated, the WHO said. *AFP*

Patents reform urged

THE WORLD'S PATENT system must be reformed to keep pace with rapid technological, corporate and social changes that are pressuring intellectual property rights, experts said Tuesday.

The reforms could include viewing patents not as a monopoly on innovations but as a way of making information about them more widely available, European Patent Office vice president Michael Desantes told a conference in Manila.

New technology the concentration of patents in the hands of big business and calls for more open access to patented technology, including by poor countries for medicines, were among the challenges to be faced, he said.

The expert also warned the conference, which brought together the heads of intellectual property offices from around the world, about the dangers of piracy.

"Piracy is a cancer to a country. The more piracy, the less development," Desantes said, adding that the patent system should be made entirely electronic to cope with the challenges it faced.

The conference discussion agenda was the future of intellectual property rights and the patent system protecting them.

Delegates said wealth today was measured by innovation and technological know-how rather than just by factors such as land or energy resources. *AFP*

Diabetics seen likely to double in 20 years

By Margaux C. Ortiz

DIABETES HAS AFFECTED MORE THAN 180 million people in the world, making it the silent menace in the workplace, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO).

"According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the number is likely to more than double by 2030," said Minette Rimando, ILO senior communication and public information assistant.

For the millions of people at risk, today marks the first United Nations-observed World Diabetes Day. Nov. 14 is the birthday of Frederick Banting who, along with Charles Best, first conceived of the idea which led to the discovery of insulin in 1921.

Meredith Bullamore of the Geneva Social Observatory explained that diabetes, a disease that attacks the pancreas and inhibits the way the body effectively processes food as a source of energy, could be tied to many chronic conditions including heart disease, stroke and obesity.

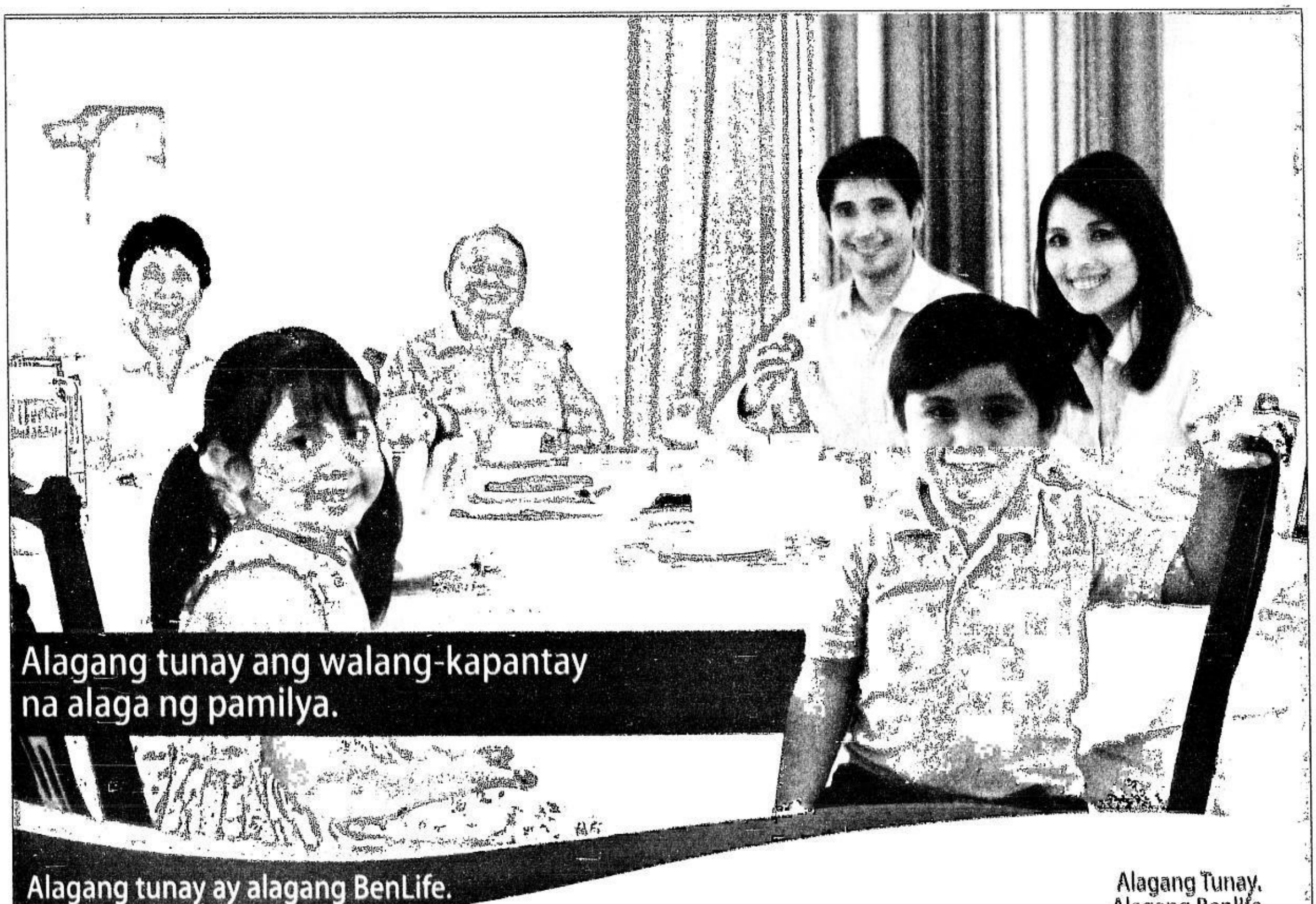
Difficult to control

"The presence of multiple conditions makes diabetes very difficult to control and can be very expensive to manage," said Bullamore, who is currently working with the Geneva Social Observatory to develop a round-table series that would address diabetes and chronic disease in the workplace.

She added that complications from high blood sugar levels and poorly managed diabetes could lead to blindness, kidney failure and the loss of a limb from diabetic neuropathy.

"It is very important to balance proper medication treatments with physical activity and a healthy diet to promote overall well-being and prolonged good health," Bullamore said.

Bullamore explained that one of the best methods of prevention is to develop a holistic health program that nurtures a balanced diet and regular exercise.



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Stuck in a trap

THE VERY FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES to face an impeachment complaint was Elpidio Quirino. Anyone interested in the origins of a now all-too-familiar process in our political life should refer to Quirino's memoirs, published by the National Historical Institute. Simply put, the House of Representatives in 1949 handled things much better than the Houses of 2000, or 2005 to the present.

EDITORIAL

The words of Quirino should ring down history and reach deafening decibels in his successor's ears. Writing to the Speaker of the House, Quirino said, "The dignity of the House as well as of the Office of the Chief Executive and of the nation is involved. I therefore ask that you lose no time to act on the resolution in order to protect and vindicate the name of the Republic regardless of who is to be sacrificed at the altar of public duty."

In his memoirs he would write, "There was nothing for me to do, but to let the people find out the truth, and that was only what I could tell Congress to do. To this end, I ordered all the records of Malacañan to be opened to all members of Congress who would like to see them."

In that first-ever impeachment effort, the House proceeded as follows: After the impeachment resolution was filed, a committee was convened which requested memoranda from the President and his accusers. Then the committee decided to obtain the facts, first, before ruling on the arguments of the President's defense and his accusers. There were oral arguments. During three days of public hearings, evidence and testimony for both sides were submitted. Memoranda on the evidence were then requested from both sides. Then the committee determined if the evidence supported the charges; its report that the five charges against Quirino were either unsupported by evidence, or charges that were unsuitable for an impeachment, was then accepted by the House in plenary.

Nowhere in his memoirs did Quirino say that he viewed the matter as one that should be determined by a party vote. Nowhere did he write that he viewed it as a "numbers game." And while he was candid about how resentful he was personally, and how catastrophic he believed the whole thing was for the prestige of his office, he viewed the whole matter, fundamentally, as a question of honor.

Today, of course, the House can claim it has rules far different (and far inferior) to those governing impeachment in 1949. We are under a different Constitution, too, which lowered the bar in terms of the votes required to transmit articles of impeachment to the Senate. This has led to the adoption by the administration of a tactical, instead of ethical, approach to the impeachment process. Yet the kind of people involved—politicians—then and now aren't very different. Quirino faced vicious infighting within his Liberal Party reminiscent of the intramurals between Kampi and Lakas today, with a relatively small opposition hounding both Presidents.

Indeed the only difference we see is that Quirino genuinely believed in his innocence and trusted the process. Quirino knew, as one of the framers of the 1935 Constitution, what impeachment is: a means by which a nation being governed badly can gain relief. As chief executive he asserted that relief was unnecessary; as a lawyer, he knew his salvation lay in confronting his accusers and opening access to information, and presenting evidence.

In contrast, President Macapagal-Arroyo mistrusts the process and the people in it. Her allies and critics in the House have conspired to approve rules that deny impeachable officials proper vindication not only before the House, but in the court of public opinion. And the Supreme Court, too, has handed down decisions that have mutated impeachment into a race to file weak complaints to stave off genuine ones.

In other words, all three branches of government are stuck in a trap, with each blaming the other for tying its hand, resulting in what we have today. Yet among these institutions, it is the House that still has in its hands the means to pass new rules in keeping with those of 1949. But it won't, because it prefers the Palace cash buffet. Its members worship at the altar of Mammon instead of the altar of public duty.

MRT 7 may end Metro traffic problems

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE IN QUEZON CITY is being widened. When finished, it will be the widest street in the Philippines, wider than Edsa, C-5, or even the North and South Luzon expressways. Even so the traffic jams during the morning and afternoon rush hours are bound to become bigger and longer every day as hordes of vehicles from Bulacan and other points north and from Rizal towns east of Metro Manila use Commonwealth to get to their destinations in the south and the west. MacArthur Highway, the only other entryway from the north, is congested.

Also, the design of Commonwealth is faulty. While most of it is going to be very wide, it tapers to a funnel at Philcoa, entering the Quezon Circle. So vehicles pile up at the approach to the Circle and the traffic jam extends all the way back to the Tandang Sora flyover and beyond. So that all that work and money lavished on Commonwealth to lighten traffic are not wasted, the Philcoa area should be widened, the malls pushed back, and public utility vehicles prohibited from loading and unloading there.

There is another way to ease the traffic congestion on Commonwealth: Construct an elevated rail line from Bulacan to the MRT depot on North Edsa, beside the Trinoma and SM malls. That way, passengers will no longer bring their vehicles and simply use the metro rail to get into Metro Manila. With that and the MRT line from North Edsa to Monumento finished, passengers need no longer bring vehicles or ride buses and jeepneys in going from north to south and vice versa through Metro Manila. The interconnected elevated rails can transport them all the way without their feet even touching the street below.

The trouble is that the government is very slow in approving the construction of MRT 7, the line running from San Jose del Monte in Bulacan, above Commonwealth Avenue, then under the Quezon Memorial Park and North Avenue to the North Edsa depot that will then connect it to all the other elevated rail lines.

A proposal to do that has been pending for the last seven years. The proponent, Universal LRT Corp. (ULC), the same group behind the LRT 1 and MRT 3 projects, has hurdled all government requirements, including the Swiss challenge, and yet the government is dilly-dallying on the approval of the $1.2-billion MRT 7 project. MRT 7, the first intermodal mode of transportation in Asia, offers an efficient, dependable transportation to millions of residents north of Manila.

ULC will also build a 22-km highway (access road) that will connect the MRT 7 line from San Jose del Monte to NLEX at Marilao, Bulacan.

MRT 7 will service initially 300,000 passenger trips and finally 850,000 passenger trips per day. It will also generate massive employment during and after its construction. What's more, it would divert buses from Edsa and from NLEX that are now clogging the metropolis. It will be one sure way of solving the traffic problem.

The project will also provide new growth areas north of the metropolis, including employment, housing and new businesses. MRT 7 is the only mass transport system that has a real estate component. A new housing, industrial and business hub will be built by the real estate partner companies of ULC at its depot in Bulacan. There will be malls constructed at regular stations of the rail line.

Aside from the revenues from its operation, MRT 7 will also save dollars for oil imports for power and fuel consumption. As fewer and fewer people use buses, jeepneys and taxis, vehicles on the road will be reduced and this will translate to less gas consumption.

If construction is started next year (if it is approved this year), MRT 7 will be fully operational by 2012. And based on computations, savings on fuel as a result of its operation will be $83 million in the first year alone, computed at $50 a barrel. If the price of oil remains at its present level of $95 a barrel, the saving will be $157 million a year. Fuel savings will increase very year, reaching between $117 million (at $50/barrel) and $223 million (at $95/barrel) every year by 2036.

The Department of Transportation and Communications and the National Economic and Development Authority have endorsed the project as they found it economically viable with its real estate component. The only obstacle to its approval is the additional amount of performance bond that the government is asking ULC to pay. The government wants to increase the 10 percent performance bond of the real estate and commercial developments.

But ULC says such a condition might jeopardize its ability to generate the funds/loans and equity to support the implementation of the project. It, however, offers several proposals as a compromise. One of them is to pledge equity return of strategic investors according to their real estate development achievements.

The MRT 7 project is one of the biggest infrastructure projects (attracting major investments in the country) so far. It does not require any direct government guarantee and assumes operation and maintenance risks. It also has deficit neutrality, which is assured by ULC's commitment to develop commercially 194 hectares of land adjacent to the project site, and allocate 20 percent of the land or the profits to government.

It is estimated that more than $2 billion in foreign and local investments would be poured into real estate development, thus pump-priming the economy. That means additional investment opportunities for the country and revenues for the government in the form of taxes.

'Ramdam na ramdam na'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I FIRST CAUGHT THE AD ON RADIO SOME months ago. I thought it was an ad about, or for, the OFWs, because it featured an OFW enthusing about how things had gotten better in this country, his sweat now bearing fruit. The ad ended with him saying, "*Ramdam na ramdam na*," or roughly, "You can really feel it now."

I've heard the ad several more times on AM radio. It's no longer just an OFW talking, it's all sorts of characters, including I think various professionals, housewives, and people engaged in livelihood projects. They all tell of how bright the prospects have now become for the ordinary Filipino. The ads end with them saying, "*Ramdam na ramdam na*."

I do not recall who takes the credit for the ad; I've always had the impression it was vague. But it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what message it is pitching and who's pitching it. It's clearly meant to answer the criticism hurled against government that its claim of economic recovery, or economic growth, or even economic prosperity is, like all of its other claims, a lie. Proof of it being that none of it is being felt by the ordinary Filipino. Indeed, proof of it being that the ordinary Filipino feels the exact opposite. It's all anyone can do to make both ends meet these days.

The ad seems calculated to dispel it. The "economic recovery," it's saying, isn't just affecting the businessmen, it's affecting everyone who has any business being in this country.

My first reaction when I heard that ad was to say, "*Lol*,"—both in the kids' sense of "laugh out loud," and in the *istambays*' sense of, well, what you say to someone who's just made a stupid remark. The stupidity in this case is patent: If ordinary Filipinos could now actually feel the joys of the uplifted life, why bother to express it for them? Why not let them express it themselves? Obviously because you did that, you might have another Ma. Theresa Pangilinan saying exactly what she felt. Pangilinan is, of course, the student who heckled GMA while she was delivering a graduation speech telling them how bright their prospects were today, if they only spoke call-center-standard English.

But all this was before something came up to completely refute the ad's message. Or indeed to give it a horrifically ironic twist. That was 12-year-old Mariannet Amper taking her own life out of ragged and unbearable hardship.

Malacañang is right: Mariannet is an isolated case. Most Filipinos do not take their own lives from being down and out. That doesn't mean they're not down and out, it only means they'd rather take other people's lives than their own. It's a perverse view of Christian charity, or the saying that charity begins at home. You look at the crime rate and you'll know that the only reason suicide is isolated is that homicide is not.

Many years ago, I wrote a speech titled "Tongues on Fire" (the first piece in a book I launched recently that carries the same title) that also mentions a suicide. Indeed, a suicide and mass homicide, a man who had been driven off the edge putting insecticide in his family's food one night—or what passed for food; the reason he had come to that pass was that they had none to begin with—and killing everyone with it. Except the wife I think, who thankfully or tragically (put yourself in her shoes and see whether it's something to be thankful for) managed to survive.

At about the time that happened, I had just come from a meeting where people were discussing a project. Nothing seemed impossible; every obstacle was swept away by someone saying he would get in touch with this or that official who would make the problem go away. The contrast between the two situations was startling and gave me to glimpse what desperation truly meant. I myself have known poverty for a great part of my life, and much frustration and rage in the course of it, but never to the point where I felt completely helpless before its onslaught. I might not have been in a position to get in touch with this or that fellow to make my problems go away, but I wasn't either in that strait where I could no longer turn to anybody for help if it came to that.

That is what desperation means, having no one to turn to. Falling into a bog where the more you thrash, the faster you sink, finding no help, no exit, no hope. Falling into a state of nothingness, having no food, no dignity, no self (never mind esteem), and having no one to turn to because your brother and father and cousin are even worse off than you are, and the corner store owner will just as soon set the dog loose as set eyes on you.

None of that, of course, justifies bringing your family to share the fate you've chosen—it still remains a choice, however the line between choice and compulsion is frayed—for yourself. That is absolutely condemnable. Suicide is bad enough, murder all the worse. But it does bring us face to face with the nature of the beast called despair or desperation.

The choice is isolated, but the plight—the hand that pushes someone to the edge of the precipice, where oblivion itself becomes attractive, whether that is one's own or others'—is not. That is the plight of many Filipinos today, the statistics notwithstanding. Mark Twain did say there are three kinds of lies: small lies, big lies and statistics. Just as well, there are probably three sides to the lot of Filipinos today: the rich side, the poor side, and the suicide. The Filipinos who kill themselves from finding no help, no hope, and no exit are few, but those who would not mind killing others to find a way of it are many. And their tribe increases by the day.

Next time you hear that phrase "*ramdam na ramdam na*," think of Mariannet Amper. The way things are, you can really feel it now.

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Political scandals undermining the economy

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ONLY A FORTNIGHT AGO, A REGIONAL ECOnomist of the British banking giant, Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp., warned that the political scandals rocking the government could halt the momentum of economic growth that has seen the Gross Domestic Product grow to a record 7.5 percent in the second quarter of 2007 in a period of uninterrupted growth over 27 quarters.

Frederic Neumann wrote in a commentary: "We view the recent political scandals as severely undermining the President's ability to persuade the Congress to pass new policy initiatives to advance structural reforms ... The scandals will make it harder for the President to advance a new wave of policy reforms, especially relating to improving the underlying public finance sector finances."

Neumann noted that the government had made a commitment to wipe out its budget deficits and was closing in on its full-year deficit target of P63 billlion, with the help of privatization proceeds, but its fiscal performance was "less impressive," suggesting that more reforms were needed.

Ambitious expenditure plans and a sluggish tax collection were likely to keep the budget in deficit for the foreseeable future, he said. "There has been no material improvement in tax collections to support sustained increase in spending on infrastructure and social services."

The scandals, he said, had "eroded the public goodwill that had been rebuilt as a result of faster economic activity and a stronger Philippine peso allowing for easy monetary stance by the Central Bank." He mentioned the recent spate of scandals that have roiled the government, including the congressional investigations of the national broadband project contract with the Chinese firm, ZTE Corp., the cash payoffs to congressmen and governors inside the presidential palace, as unsettling events that have impaired the President's capacity to push further reforms to finance her ambitious infrastructure programs.

Since the commentary was published on Oct. 22, the government has been embroiled in new controversies that could only have weakened further the President's capacity to press for further fiscal initiatives and poisoned the environment for cooperation between her and Congress. The more recent turbulence is being stirred up by impeachment complaints lodged against the President in the House of Representatives and the turmoil inside the ruling majority coalition, among the President's allies (among them Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile over the alleged bribery in the broadband project). These conflicts, arising from governance issues, threaten to break up the administration coalition in Congress.

This turbulent political environment highlights the salience of governance issues as a decisive element in sustaining high economic growth and establishing political stability as a foundation for growth. These issues, particularly over corruption, are asserting themselves more aggressively as the focus of public debate. Businessmen, both domestic and international, are increasingly expressing concerns over the impact of political turmoil on the economic agenda.

During the past six years of the embattled Arroyo administration, the economy seemed to have grown autonomously relative to political turbulence. It has grown despite the battering by a series of political crises. The business sector has increasingly manifested its concern over the disruptive effects of political turmoil and instability on sustaining economic growth.

Politics appears to have taken primacy over economics in determining the sustainability of growth. As Neumann pointed out, the scandals were starting to hurt the administration's ability to manage the economy. The message from the business sector is that there's a limit to abusing the economy's ability to absorb the shocks of political turmoil.

Last September, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito wrote in the INQUIRER, "If persistent weaknesses in governance continue to get in the way of business confidence, then no amount of new infrastructure spending will stimulate more durable private investment growth at the rates needed to sustain 7.5 percent growth or higher." Economists have uniformly pointed out that the growth had been driven by government infrastructure spending and domestic consumption spending resulting from the high level of remittances of overseas Filipino workers—not by a high investment rate.

The infrastructure program is underpinned by foreign borrowing and foreign investments. Revenue collection shortfalls have recently worried fiscal authorities. Last July, Fitch Ratings reported that poor revenue collections in the first half of 2007 made it unlikely that the country would keep its budget deficit within the P63-billion ceiling. "The positive momentum behind the Philippine fiscal performance in recent years faltered badly in early 2007, particularly with respect to tax collection," Fitch reported.

Last Nov. 5, President Macapagal-Arroyo reminded her allies in Congress and the opposition that they have a duty to the people to "continue with the gains" in the economy and not stop the progress. She said the people deserved peace, order and stability with the help of officials.

This was another way of saying, "Let's move on," and look the other way from the scandals. And she said this in the midst of the growing scandals, and increasing signs that the economic gains are sitting on the bubble of political instability.

Young suicides

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'VE BEEN RELUCTANT TO WRITE ABOUT THE CASE OF the 12-year-old girl in Davao who died by suicide. Note that I'm not even going to name her, in deference to the family. People forget how stigmatized suicide is in the Philippines and how her siblings will have to live with that burden.

Rightly so, there's been an uproar about how the suicide was precipitated by poverty. Suddenly, the young girl's now dubbed a "patron saint of poverty." I know, I know, it's part of our penchant for melodrama, but how much, really, is this circus doing for the poor?

I'm also struck by contrasts in the way the media have been covering this case, compared with an earlier one. In September, a few weeks before the Davao suicide, a 9-year-old girl from Manila died after a fall from a building. The initial newspaper reports said she jumped. Investigators weren't sure. The family appealed to media to keep this from turning sensational. The item disappeared from the news, overtaken by the Davao case.

The fact is that young Filipinos do die by suicide, and we're not doing enough to address the problem, except by moving into extremes, either sensationalizing the deaths or going into denial. Between 2001 and 2003, the Department of Health reported 92 deaths from suicides among children aged 10-14 and 584 deaths among 15-19 years old. I am certain the actual numbers are higher. Many suicides were probably reported as accidental deaths, at the request of the family.

We associate suicides with big cities like Manila and Davao, but they occur everywhere, even in the hinterlands. Anthropologist Charles MacDonald's recent book, "Uncultural Behavior," is about suicides in a small town in Palawan and among the cases he documented was that of a 13-year-old boy who hanged himself.

Depression

These deaths have to remind us of the need for suicide prevention in the country, especially among the young. But how do we go about this?

More or less, we know what the most common predisposing factors are for suicides. Depression is the most common, and what I mean here is a clinical condition, marked by inability to work and engage in life. We tend to associate depression only with adults, but depression can start even in childhood. We tend to dismiss this as being *sumpungin* (moodiness) in children.

It may not always be easy to spot the depression. Even at the University of the Philippines, whenever we have a student dying by suicide, faculty members are bewildered, saying they never saw the "signs." As things turn out, the signs might not always be obvious, especially given how our culture emphasizes façades of cheerfulness. I hope our psychiatrists can come out and work with the educational system, starting as early as the elementary level, to help teachers and counselors to identify children at risk.

There are other risk factors to look for, such as a family history of depression and suicide, alcohol or drug use, sexual abuse. There will also be more culture-specific triggering factors; for example, among East Asian cultures (China, Korea and Japan), young suicides are often associated with failing in examinations, especially to get into college. In such cultures, failure in the exam brings disgrace to the family, and is also interpreted as a lack of filial piety.

Attempted suicides

I got additional insights into this issue of youthful suicides after reading a report in the journal School Psychology International, published just last year. The article's title was "Hopelessness and loneliness among suicide attempters in school-based samples of Taiwanese, Philippine and Thai Adolescents." The lead author was Randy Page, who made the report together with Thai and Taiwanese researchers, as well as one Filipina, Emilia Patricia Zarco. Zarco was listed as being affiliated with Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, but the study also involved the University of the Philippines.

The study cited other research looking into the prevalence of attempted suicides among high school students. One US study found 5.4 percent of boys and 11.5 percent of girls had attempted suicide at least once. A South African study reported 6 percent of males and 14 percent of females. A study from the People's Republic of China gave figures of 7.1 percent of males and 7 percent of females, which were strikingly similar to figures from Hong Kong, with 7.3 percent of boys and 7.2 percent of girls. Most shocking was a study from La Paz, Bolivia, showing 8.9 percent of boys and 26.9 percent of girls reporting attempted suicides.

What did Page's team of researchers find? The figures were very high for the schools in Taipei, with 16.6 percent of males and 28.9 percent of females reporting at least one suicide attempt. The Thai study was conducted in Chiang Mai and showed lower figures of 5.7 percent of males and 7.4 percent of females reporting a suicide attempt.

The Philippine study was conducted in eight high schools from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, with 10.8 percent of males and 10.9 percent of females as suicide attempters. Note that many of the studies from other countries found higher attempted suicide rates among females than with males, while in the Philippines there was no significant difference. This lack of a gender difference could be the focus of a future study.

It's hard to generalize from those figures, especially since the Philippine sample of schools was not randomly selected. But the study tells us suicide attempts do occur in high school. The report's authors speculate that the actual figures may be higher since it is not socially desirable to admit to having tried suicide.

Page and his co-researchers focused on the students' feelings of "hopelessness" and "loneliness," measured through two tests where they were asked to agree or disagree with certain statements. Remember these are "cognitive" in nature, meaning how students look at the world.

Hopelessness was found to be the strongest cognitive variable associated with suicide attempts, and was very high among the Taiwanese students, followed by the Thais, with Filipinos scoring the lowest. Perhaps it coincides with studies conducted among Filipino adults showing that even if we complain endlessly, we do tend not to lose hope as easily. I'm not saying this facetiously; perhaps we do have more outlets for our frustrations, and this could extend to the young as well.

The findings about hopelessness become even more relevant when we look at the Davao suicide, the girl's diary showing the extent of her despair. Yet, the Page study did have additional findings about hopelessness, which were its linkages to loneliness, referring to a sense of social networks. This point of social support is crucial if we are to understand the predisposing factors for young suicides in the Philippines, and that's what I'll tackle on Friday, still taking off from the School Psychology International report.

The march of the caudillos

WORLD VIEW

Roberto Laserna

LA PAZ—THE RE-ELECTION FOR UNLIMITED periods that Presidents Hugo Chávez and Evo Morales have sought in Venezuela and Bolivia, respectively, reflects a phenomenon—caudillismo—that has, sadly, never been far from the surface of Latin American politics. At least Russian President Vladimir Putin had the decency to honor the form of his country's constitution when he recently promised to step down and run for parliament.

Of course, several recent Latin American presidents succeeded in changing their countries' constitutions to lengthen their terms in office. Argentina's Carlos Menem, the heir to Peronism, the continent's most enduring form of caudillismo, was one such example, but his was a soft caudillismo, which basically maintained democratic norms.

Caudillismo has two key facets. First, because it is, above all, a form of political representation, it can have its own local particularities. Second, although caudillismo personalizes politics, it depends less on the characteristics of the caudillo than on the social, political, and economic conditions of the country in which caudillismo takes root. In other words, although a caudillo's charisma matters, he or she is a social creation.

These two ideas are helpful in understanding Chávez and Morales. Like the old caudillos, they concentrate representation of their supporters in themselves. Whereas representation in democratic countries is based on people's confidence that they can achieve a better future under their elected leaders, in countries like Venezuela and Bolivia nowadays, representation is based on a simple identification with the leader: "He's one of us."

The way "us" is defined links the caudillo with his supporters by building an uncomplicated and easily invoked collective identity that facilitates communication and political mobilization, while also implying submission by all citizens. Morales and Chávez always emphasize their humble origins in order to appeal emotionally to those who share those characteristics with them, and to blackmail those who do not.

This image is strengthened each time the caudillo engages in confrontation with some large, and usually vaguely defined, enemy: the Empire or the United States, the oligarchies, the traditional parties, or the transnational corporations.

> The weaker a country's institutions, the more evident the inequalities, and the more concentrated the economic resources, the greater the caudillo's powers will be

But caudillos have other uses for conflict: it allows them to strengthen the unity of their popular bases and evade the management responsibilities that exercising political power entails. They construct politics in such a way that there will always be an enemy to blame for any problems that arise.

Chávez and Morales have been accumulating power by dismantling their societies' fragile institutional checks and balances, while permanently weakening their adversaries. Traditional parties and the administrations that preceded the caudillo are dismissed as corrupt and elitist. It follows from this that constitutions must be changed to reduce the role of Congress, subordinate the judiciary, and centralize economic resources. In such schemes, Chávez has so far had more success than Morales, whose Constitutional Assembly has not yet been able to organize itself. President Rafael Correa of Ecuador looks like he also wants to move in the same direction.

The rise of these modern caudillos reflects a crisis in political parties and an acute intensification of social unease across the continent. Latin America's economic and social structures remain marked by great inequality, weak institutions, and an abundance of natural resources. Chávez and Morales, each in his own way, have taken advantage of this situation, worsening conditions to enfeeble their opponents and living off the wealth generated by natural resources, not new economic activity.

With a popular base that demands change—and that knows that change requires gaining access to state-owned wealth—social attitudes have developed that are receptive to the promises made by the caudillos. The weaker a country's institutions, the more evident the inequalities, and the more concentrated the economic resources, the greater the caudillo's powers will be.

Concentration of resources is probably the key factor, because it increases both the discretionary power of whoever controls them and the population's social expectations, which in the end cannot ever be met, because the caudillo's power depends on maintaining that concentration of resources. Caudillismo will be weakened only if profits are not captured by the state, but directly shared with citizens in a stable and continuous manner.

A decline in extreme poverty and inequality, and the creation of trustworthy institutions, can be achieved in the country's beguiled by caudillismo only if the caudillo loses control of the wealth that sustains his rule. *Project Syndicate*

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A visit to Rome

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ROME MEANS MANY THINGS TO DIFFERENT people. It is a place of work for many OFWs and their families, a new home to a young generation of Filipinos (or Filipino-Italians) growing up there. It is also a place of pilgrimage for Filipino Catholics who are often cartographically challenged and tend to forget that Rome is the capital of Italy, the Vatican being a postage-stamp-size state within Rome.

As you walk aimlessly around the so-called Eternal City, you will find so many ancient churches in and around the Pope's backyard that you cannot visit them all in one day or even three days. For history buffs who want to go further back than Christendom, there are a lot of ruins of historic structures, like the Colosseum, still standing in the midst of a 21st-century city. There are many open pits or archeological sites around town left to blend with modern buildings.

If I were a teacher of early Western history, I would have cultural indigestion just visiting all the sites mentioned in the textbooks. I would probably spare some euros for the enterprising men who brave the autumn cold, walking around tourist traps dressed as Roman soldiers complete with sword and shield. Many of us know Rome from films—either sword-and-sandal flicks like "Ben Hur" (which used to be shown each year in Manila during Holy Week together with "Ten Commandments") and more cheerful films like "Roman Holiday," which has been running these days on retro cable TV for Audrey Hepburn fans.

It has been more than a decade since I last visited Rome as a Benedictine monk, staying a week in the curia of our congregation, an old house traditionally believed to have been occupied by the parents of St. Ambrose over a thousand years earlier. Then as now, I wore comfortable shoes and walked aimlessly around Rome, peeking into gardens partially hidden in grand homes, passing through every pretty alley not infested with burly black men selling fake branded leather goods.

I entered churches, first to get the customary three wishes and to discover what lay within. Each church is a treasure in its ornamentation; a teacher of Western art could spend a lifetime just walking about, discovering and re-discovering places one has known from pictures in books. Finding a familiar church or painting or sculpture in Rome is like meeting an old friend in the street, making one exclaim, "*Ay! Nandito ka lang pala!*"

Using the free time from the forum we attended, I hoped to find new insight for the classes I will be teaching this semester. I walked a lot and ate well. For inspiration, I visited two places from my monastic past. Since I was a Benedictine with an Ignatian name (in a past life I was known as Dom. Ignacio Maria, OSB), I had to visit churches connected to the founding fathers Saints Benedict and Ignatius Loyola. I was elated to find a church of St. Ignatius where some famous Jesuit saints were buried, but this was not the famous Church of the Gesu (the inspiration for that austere white structure in the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Loyola Heights, Quezon City). I visited the place once before and knew that the Gesu had the right arm of St. Francis Xavier in one of the side chapels. This was detached from the rest of the body that now lies in Goa.

Francis Xavier traveled to Asia and is the patron of the Jesuit Chinese school in Greenhills and a Jesuit university in Cagayan de Oro. Legend says that he passed through Mindanao and performed a miracle there. When their boat was caught in a storm, the saint went on deck, prayed and threw the crucifix hanging from his neck into the raging sea. Of course, the storm went still. But this was only half the miracle. When they stepped ashore in Mindanao to acquire fresh supplies, a crab emerged on the beach carrying the crucifix the saint had thrown in the sea. Thus, in the famous 18th-century map of the Philippines by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay, the saint is shown around Mindanao and at his feet is a small crab carrying a cross.

Too bad Jesuit historians have definitively proven that the saint did not set foot in Mindanao. However, I have been served special crabs there that are black when alive and turn a bright red when cooked. They have a white streak on the shell forming a cross. I am told that these are "Francis Xavier crabs."

I was lucky to find the Gesu at a time when the rooms of St. Ignatius were open to the public. Ateneo president, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J. once narrated how St. Ignatius would go out to a small balcony in his room to gaze at the heavens. He would look at the stars and marvel at creation. When I entered the room, I went to the balcony and realized one would have a hard time star gazing there today because of the reflection from the city lights.

Next I visited Subiaco outside Rome to see the cave where Benedict lived as a hermit. There was a marble plaque there that said: "Why did Benedict seek light in the darkness of a cave? Well, it is in darkness that one sees stars more clearly."

When I meet my classes for the first time this week, I do enter a void, hoping that after one semester I will look into the eyes of my students and see wonder and knowledge there sparkling like stars.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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Attack on lawyers condemned

THE NATIONAL UNION OF PEOples' Lawyers (NUPL) condemns the brutal arrest of at least 1,500 lawyers in Pakistan who were merely exercising their right to assemble and protest against the emergency rule imposed by Pakistani military chief and President Pervez Musharraf. The firing of tear gas by the military into the Supreme Court of Pakistan was a blatant attack on the independence of the judiciary and totally unacceptable.

We also condemn Musharraf's declaration of emergency rule as nothing more than an attempt of his to hold on to the presidency.

NUPL urges President Musharraf to respect the rights of the members of the legal profession, even those opposed to his rule, as these are guaranteed rights under international law. Sec. 3 of the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, adopted by the 1990 UN Congress on Prevention of Crime, states: "Lawyers like other citizens are entitled to freedom of expression, belief, association and assembly. In particular, they shall have the right to take part in public discussion of matters concerning the law, the administration of justice and the promotion and protection of human rights and to join or form local, national or international organizations..."

Sec. 1 of The Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, endorsed by the UN General Assembly Resolution 40/32 in 1985, also requires governments' respect for the judiciary: "The independence of the judiciary shall be guaranteed by the State .... It is the duty of all governmental and other institutions to respect and observe the independence of the judiciary."

NUPL calls on members of the legal profession in the Philippines to actively condemn these brutal attacks on their colleagues in Pakistan and show solidarity with those who are experiencing repression similar to that being committed against Filipino lawyers by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Twenty lawyers and 12 judges have been killed since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001. More than 38 cases of harassment and attacks against lawyers have been recorded. This includes harassment of a lawyers' rally protesting Ms Arroyo's declaration of emergency rule last year.

NUPL, a national organization of human rights lawyers, urges Musharraf to lift the emergency rule, respect human rights and allow the people to exercise their right to elect their president. NUPL joins hands with concerned lawyers worldwide in condemning this latest attack on members of the legal profession.

—NERI JAVIER COLMENARES, secretary general, National Union of Peoples' Lawyers, 3F Erythrina Bldg., Maaralin corner Matatag Sts., Central District, Quezon City

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A STRETCH of bad road in Occidental Mindoro

Perplexing charity of a governor from a poor province

IN MY RECENT VISIT TO MY home province of Occidental Mindoro, I saw a province victimized by gross neglect.

The roads are really bad and very dangerous. Almost half of the entire province is impassable. I wonder if Rep. Amelita Villarosa had passed by the roads between Rizal town and Mamburao, the seat of the province. With this kind of roads, Representative Villarosa should not think of tourism in her province. Yet the roads can be repaired with her countryside development funds.

But what an irony. She distributes cash to some lawmakers when she cannot even "fix her own backyard."

Charity begins at home, Madame Villarosa.

—FR. EFREN C. JIMENEZ, OFM, Office of Advocacy, Inter-Franciscans-Philippines, Paenaan, Baras, Rizal

Who's the real source of cash gifts?

POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE Philippines definitely show that Filipinos are a gullible lot. It seems that they buy all kinds of lies, especially those being peddled by authorities.

Let's take the "cash gifts" as an example. When it was first exposed by Gov. Eddie Panlilio of Pampanga, nobody wanted to admit the payoff. It looked as if the poor governor just made up a story to gain media mileage. But it's turning out now that many others did receive "manna" in Malacañang. While before nobody was quick to come out and take responsibility for such "charity," now everybody is eager to identify themselves as the source.

But why only now? Will the people believe them? If they do, then Filipinos will prove themselves hopelessly gullible. It may be understandable if the lies come from a sidewalk vendor struggling to make a sale just so he could feed his family. But what hope do we have for our country if governors and congressmen, who are supposed to be trustworthy and to conduct the affairs of their office with transparency, do not tell the truth?

In other countries, the series of scandals that have been exposed would have led to resignations. But in those countries, one's name and honor is valued more than power and wealth. What else can be done when the heart is already callous? A moral revolution? This should start from the people and not from the present set of elected officials.

In the next election, forget the name and the political affiliation. Rather, vote for those who are least in the eyes of men but great in the eyes of God—the honest, the truthful, those who are willing to become servants of all, those who treat their office as a position of trust and thus are willing to resign when accused of irregularities.

May God bless the Philippines.

—TECK UY, teck.uy@sympatico.ca

The root cause of our problems

HOW CAN THIS GOVERNMENT and undeserving politicians make a call for moral recovery when they themselves are guilty of high-level corruption? Have we lost our sense of history?

How come the soldiers accused of assassinating Ninoy Aquino are still languishing in jail when the No. 1 suspects are living it up? From one president to the next, we don't seem to realize and learn from their mistakes and defects. Even our Church has become so anemic. Who cares about our economy when hopeless Filipinos, our No. 1 export, sacrifice family life and dignity just to send hard-earned dollars back home?

The root of our problems is our acceptance of filthy and rotten politicians.

—MA. GLORIA ALCUAZ, Kubol ng Pag-Asa, Tent of Hope, parokyasaweb.blogspot.com

Not in the short list of nominees for Comelec

INQUIRER'S NOV. 12 EDITORIAL mentioned my name as one of those included in "a Palace short list of candidates" to replace former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. The editorial concluded that my inclusion is "one reason why the appointment of the newest election commissioner, Moslemen Macarambon, generated so much controversy."

With due respect, I am sure that whoever wrote the editorial did not see the "short list" and neither did he or she verify his or her source. I, myself, have not seen the document. It was only reported by the Commission on Elections to the press. And the report of the Comelec, as carried by all newspapers, including the INQUIRER, did not mention my name on the list. Hence, I cannot think of any reason why my name suddenly appeared in the INQUIRER editorial. But I can only surmise that it is all because of the INQUIRER's one-sided view that the "track record of the Arroyo administration (in appointing Comelec officials) does not exactly inspire confidence."

I respect the INQUIRER's views and opinions. But please do not do it at my expense and to the point of practically besmirching my reputation. For the record, I have been very open in my pronouncement that I am not interested to be appointed as Comelec chair and this is known to the President because of my repeated refusal to accept any position in the government. While I do not want to mention this but compelled to do so now only in self-defense, I have been offered the positions of solicitor general, chief presidential legal counsel and director in a government corporation.

All these I had politely declined as I want a peaceful life and as I am enjoying my private law practice. Also, no less than PPCRV chair Tita de Villa, former Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod, and opposition lawyer Sixto Brillantes, to name a few, have been asking me to consider applying for the position, which I also have courteously declined.

—ROMULO B. MACALINTAL, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

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From apathy to active participation

By S.C.A. Isidro
Contributor

A YOUNG voter receives indelible ink as she and millions of youths across the country vote for the first time. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

IN THE EYES OF YOUTH LEADER Gerald Paragas, candidates and voters are more vigilant now. In the recent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections, many of the youth volunteered as "*bantay kada kalye* (street guards)" and were active in reporting anomalies and election-related offenses to the Commission on Elections.

Many of the youth are active in reporting anomalies and election-related offenses to the Comelec

Paragas, 24, a councilor of Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, came to this realization after he organized a week-long election information drive on the SK that he and fellow youth leaders held in the town. The forum was aimed at educating members of the Katipunan ng Kabataan (KK) or the registered voters aged 15-17 years in the town.

SK candidates took on more relevant issues in their platforms in this year's elections, Paragas said.

"Some tackled global warming. They seemed to be wary of issues like the proliferation of fraternities and gangs, premarital sex and early marriage. [They said] drug addiction cannot be prevented merely through slogans and billboards; there should be a concerted effort from all sectors," he said.

There is a growing sentiment that the SK should be abolished because it has become a breeding ground for the next generation of corrupt politicians.

Although Paragas tended to agree and was himself quite skeptical of the existence of the SK, he eventually changed his mind. "It can work," he said.

A YOUTH volunteer educates and gives information materials to a young voter during the Sangguniang Kabataan elections in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

Armed with brochures and posters produced by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) as voter education campaign materials, Paragas organized a forum in his hometown a week before the SK elections.

Voter education

Among the activities he and his friends organized were screenings of the award-winning film "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa (March of the Penguins)?" and segments from investigative television programs on youth delinquency and drug addiction.

He also organized mini-forums in four towns.

The youth leaders even visited radio stations and made public service announcements to reach out to the young voters.

Paragas was not prepared for the impact the forum would have on youths and adults who were just as concerned about the outcome of the SK elections.

"Some sectoral groups among our constituents—like incumbent SK councils, out-of-school youth, senior citizens and even media organizations—eventually duplicated our activities by conducting forums in their respective barangay," he said.

"They always used in their caucuses what they learned from the speakers at the forum. They would quote us whenever they would cite laws on the do's and don'ts of elections," he added.

After seeing the impact of this campaign on young voters, Paragas realized how important and crucial voter education was, and the need for a more vigilant youth who would take an active role in shaping their future.

"I can relate to these young people's struggles in their first foray into politics. I want to instill in them the values of leadership and the basics of governance," said Paragas, a former broadcast journalist who started his political career as a barangay councilor at 18.

He said he wanted to educate them on the importance of doing this for the good and in service of the public, "not for *pogi* (goodwill) points."

Involved

"The event was *astig* (awesome); a success despite the initial setback brought by rains. Your posters were a hit. Most of the youth took them home as souvenirs as soon as we posted them. But the voter education materials really helped," Paragas said in a letter to Unicef.

Lyca Camba, 21, a teacher and president of the Matic Matic Youth Association in Sta. Barbara, said the posters helped them encourage the youth to be involved.

The posters carried the slogans, "*Sulong, kabataan! Atin ang bukas* (Forge ahead, young people! The future is ours)!" and "*Sa Oct. 29, simulan ang pagbabago. Makilahok. Kumilos. Bumoto* (On Oct. 29, let change begin with you. Take part. Be involved. Vote)."

The materials carried images of the rock band Bamboo.

"At least they are now informed of the dynamics of SK—as contained in the Unicef brochures … At least, *maangas na ngayon ang kabataan* (the youth are now less apathetic) and are more aware and knowledgeable about the SK," Paragas said.

He added: "Until now, days after the elections, I still receive text messages from SK participants—winners and losers alike—showing appreciation for our having organized the forum, which was a first in our town. It's a nice feeling to hear from them that they were inspired by what we did."

Paragas now looks forward to partnering with newly elected SK officials for a reading program for day care centers in the town.

The youth need, want to be involved in local dev't, says UP study

JOHN CASTAÑEDA, director of the National Barangay Operations Office (NBOO) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, says the Philippines pioneered youth and children's participation in local governance.

"[While] other countries are still in the process of introducing youth governance, as early as 1975, the Philippines had recognized youth as viable partners in nation-building," says Castañeda in his remarks for the study, "The impact of youth participation on the local government process: The Sangguniang Kabataan experience."

Lina Laigo, executive director of the Council for the Welfare of Children, agrees, saying "we may be the only country that has enshrined child participation in our laws."

The SK, Laigo says, is the quintessential example of child participation.

"The youth sector comprises a third of the population of the Philippines. There has never been a better time to invest in young people than now," according to Dr. Nicholas Alipui, representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to the Philippines.

National Youth Commission chair Richard Alvin Nalupta says the SK "remains a major pioneering mechanism for the youth to participate in local governance."

The study, conducted from August 2005 to February 2006, was commissioned by the DILG and Unicef and was conducted by the Program on Psychosocial Trauma and Human Rights Center for Integrative and Development Studies-University of the Philippines.

It was conducted "in response to [negative] perceptions [about the SK] and to provide rational bases for legislative recommendations and policy formulation."

It had 1,887 survey respondents from select cities, towns and barangay in Isabela, Cebu, Siquijor, Basilan, Davao del Norte and Metro Manila. The respondents, whose ages ranged from 14 to 80 years, were a mix of residents and public officials on the provincial, city, town and barangay levels.

Among the strengths of the SK that were identified in the study were: The tremendous potential of the SK in developing the next generation of leaders and in engaging the youth in the community, and teaching them accountability, honesty and creativity.

Apparently, the potentials of the SK are not being maximized—resulting in projects that are largely limited to sports (construction of basketball courts or holding basketball tournaments), infrastructure development (waiting sheds) and environmental protection.

The study found that giving the youth a seat in local governments, providing them with a budget mandated by law, listening to them, and providing venues for them to take part in shaping local policies and programs "could transform young people into significant members of the community."

"Abolishing the SK will not serve the best interest of children and young people. It will not shield them from the negative influences of politics and politicians, but would only destroy a unique system and mechanism that has great potential for youth participation in governance and community service," it said.

"Respondents may not perceive the SK as a meaningful venue for participation. However, by retaining the SK system but with some changes, the youth's message is clear: They need and want to be involved in the local development process," it said.

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Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

US firms, crash victims' kin near deal

DAVAO CITY—THE FAMILIES OF THE 131 PEOPLE killed in the crash of an Air Philippines Boeing 737-200 plane in the Island Garden City of Samal on April 19, 2000 could receive up to $1.2 million each.

North Cotabato Vice Gov. Emmanuel Piñol, whose sister-in-law and nieces died in the crash, said the American lawyers assisting the victims' families are currently in the city to finalize the settlement.

Class suit

Shortly after investigations on the crash were completed, the families of the victims worked with the US-based Nolan law group and filed a class suit before a Chicago court against EAR Corp. and Southwest Airlines, the companies responsible for leasing the ill-fated jet to Air Philippines.

They said the claim of the companies that the crash was caused by pilot error was unbelievable because of indications that the victims knew the plane was in trouble.

This theory was bolstered when it was found that the victims were all wearing life vests when their bodies were retrieved.

The Nolan law group conducted a deeper investigation and found out that the ill-fated jet was "salvaged from a desert in Arizona, where it was parked."

Salvaged plane

EAR Corp. bought the jet from Southwest in 1997 and leased the plane to Air Philippines in the same year.

In the post crash investigation conducted by the law firm in Barangay Camudmud, it was found out that the insurers for EAR and Southwest tried to spoil evidence by covering the wreckage with concrete materials.

After several court hearings, Piñol said they were told that EAR and Southwest decided to enter into a settlement agreement.

Compromise

"The case will come to a close this year. The American lawyers led by Donald Nolan and Tom Ellice are now conducting the final settlement of the case with the family and relatives of the victims. They are now talking about the amount," Piñol said during the Kapihan sa Dabaw held at SM City on Monday.

Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON APRIL 19, 2000, at about 7 a.m., Air Philippines Flight 541 crashed on Samal Island, just a few miles from the Davao International Airport, killing all 131 people on board.

The Boeing 737-200 plane from Manila was seen on fire when it crashed into a coconut plantation in Barangay San Isidro in Babak town.

It is said to be the country's worst air tragedy.

An earlier report said pilot error caused the crash, but it was rejected by relatives of the fatalities.

US lawyers Donald Dolan and Manuel Ribbeck were helping the relatives prove in a US court that the plane was defective.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Customs exec in Batangas won't yield juicy post

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS CITY—HUNDREDS of employees of the Batangas port and businessmen have found themselves in a quandary after the district collector, who was supposed to retire on Oct. 25, refused to yield her position to a designated successor.

The collector, Gracia Caringal, said she had just turned 64 and not yet eligible for mandatory retirement for government employees under the law. She pointed out that her parents erroneously registered her date of birth as Oct. 25, 1942, instead of Oct. 25, 1943.

Caringal is the older sister of Senior State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, in an order issued on Oct. 24, assigned Rene Benavides as officer in charge of the port in a concurrent capacity as acting deputy collector for assessment, replacing Caringal, who was scheduled to retire the next day.

"Since the order was issued, papers regarding the duties and taxes to be paid by importers were released behind schedule. Executives of companies, especially those engaged in importing cars and crude oil, have been complaining about the delay," a port employee said.

Confusion

The employee, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal from Caringal, said the delay was caused by the confusion regarding the official signatory on port documents.

Caringal had explicitly told port employees not to talk to the media regarding the issue, the source added.

Instead of vacating her seat, Caringal filed a petition for a temporary restraining order (TRO) before the Batangas regional trial court on Oct. 26 to block Morales' memorandum.

She said she had asked the National Census Office to amend her birth records and fix the mistake.

Court action

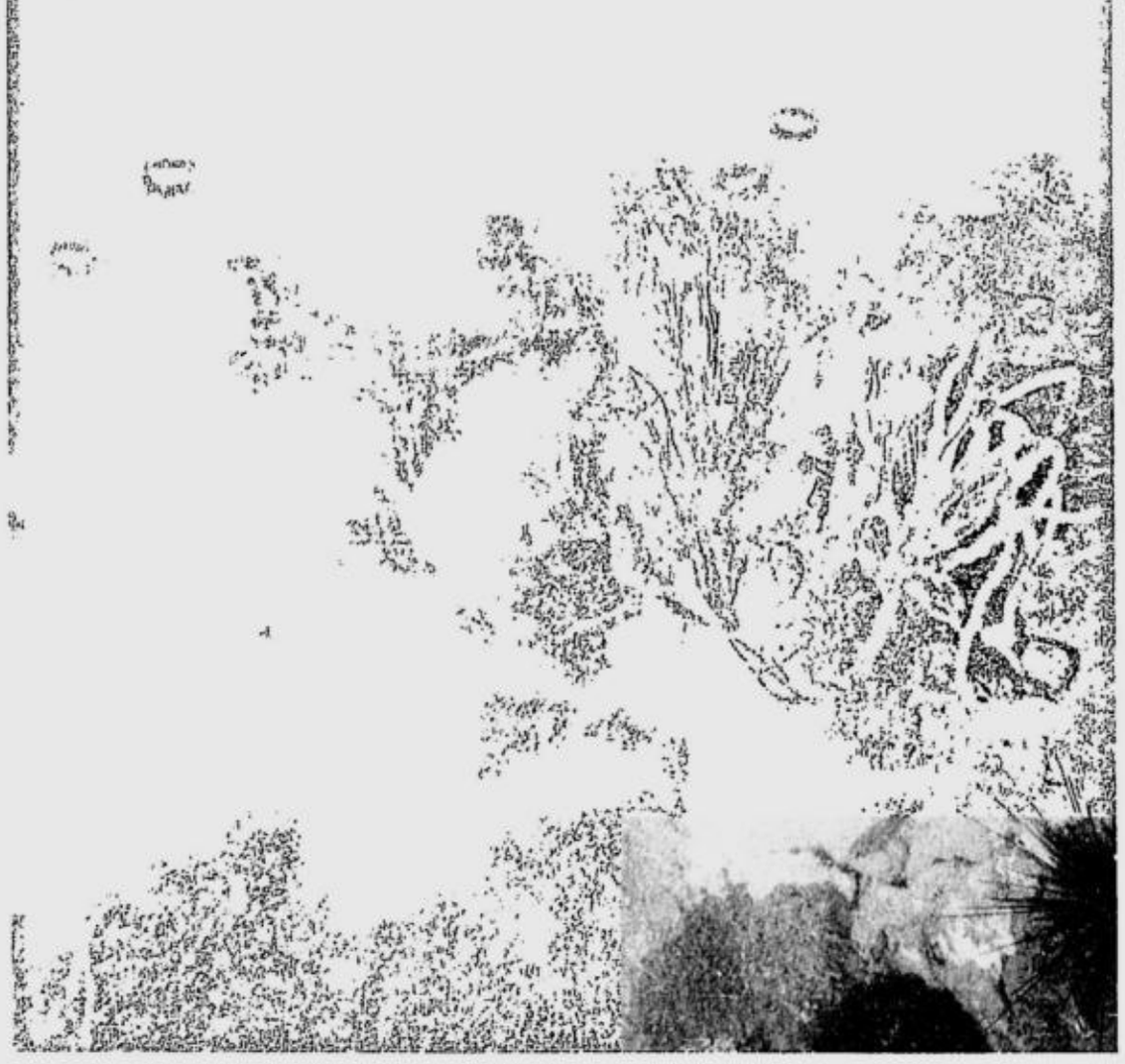
A few hours after it was filed, Judge Albert Kalalo issued a 72-hour TRO against Morales. Four days later, Kalalo extended the TRO for 17 more days.

Morales told local reporters on Wednesday that he was surprised with Caringal's actions. He said he was told how the morale of customs employees and the port's operations were affected by the issue.

Citing documents, Morales said that since February, Caringal had submitted papers, including clearances from the Office of the Ombudsman and other government agencies, pertinent to her retirement.

In those documents which she signed, Caringal indicated that her birthday was Oct. 25, 1942.

Instead of challenging her claim, however, Morales said the bureau filed a motion to dismiss the petition of Caringal for lack of jurisdiction.



SALVAGE AREA YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR
The salvage operation on the sunken World War II vintage battleship that began in 2004 has been blamed for a decrease in the catch of fishermen of Barangay San Pedro in MacArthur town, Leyte. The ship has served as habitat of fish and removing it would drive the fish away as well.

Japanese trader slain in Cebu

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—UNIDENTIFIED suspects ambushed and killed a Japanese businessman while he was in a van in Mandaue City at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Senior Supt. Rodel Calungsod, chief of the Mandaue City Police Office, identified the victim as Hiroshi Kusaka, 49 of Tokyo, Japan but currently living at the City Light Condominium in Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

Calungsod said Kusaka was on his way to Mactan Cebu International Airport to catch his flight to Japan when the attack happened. When the van stopped at a red light at the corner of G. Ouano and Plaridel Streets, Mandaue City, one of two suspects on board a motorcycle fired a .45 cal. pistol at Kusaka who was sitting behind his driver, Efren Rosales.

Kusaka suffered five gunshot wounds. He was declared dead on arrival at the Mandaue City District Hospital but Rosales was unharmed.

Calungsod said they were holding Rosales for questioning because investigators found it strange how the suspects could know their target was sitting in the back when the van was heavily tinted.

In an interview with radio station dyLa, Rosales said he served as a driver for the Japanese businessman for two years. He also said he did not know if Kusaka's life was under threat.

GMA says gov't willing to reopen talks with NDF

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said she is amenable to the government having peace talks with communists.

During an informal interaction with the media on Friday, Ms Arroyo said she learned earlier about this proposal for peace talks with the communists in newspapers and that she is agreeable to it.

During an interview with reporters at the Leyte Park Resort here, she said it would be better to have peace talks than armed hostilities.

The government and the CPP-NDF-NPA already had peace negotiations in the past, but these were canceled in 2004.

Earlier the same day, the President had congratulated participants to the Local Peace and Security Assembly here for winning in their anti-insurgency efforts.

The congressmen, governors, other local officials and representatives of different sectors attended the assembly.

The President said she was happy to hear that Eastern Visayas has dismantled several rebel guerrilla fronts in Samar and Leyte and that many villages in the region have been removed from the list of rebel-controlled barangays.

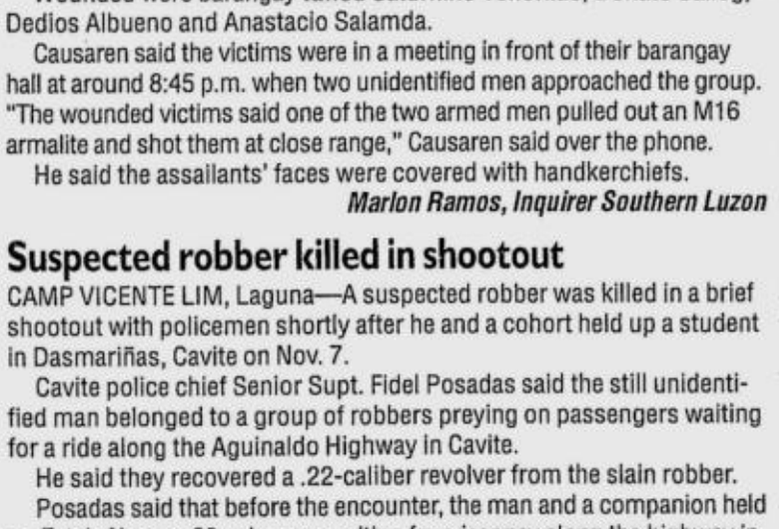
She said Eastern Visayas is now "more than half insurgency-free."

The President said she wants the insurgency to end in 2010 when her term ends.

Last week, the Inquirer.Net had reported that the government has indicated anew its willingness to resume peace talks with the National Democratic Front (NDF).

Ms Arroyo, the news report said, had issued Administrative Order No. 207 directing the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP) to "report and give recommendations on recent overtures by the National Democratic Front (NDF) for resuming peace talks, without prejudice to local peace initiatives."

Inquirer.Net also reported that communist rebels have turned to legislators and church leaders to help press for the resumption of peace talks with government.



LEFTIST protesters, with their children, march to Malacañang to continue calls for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo. RYAN LIM

NEWSBRIEFS

Police claim arrest of top NPA

VIRAC, Catanduanes—The provincial police command claimed it has arrested a top leader of the New People's Army in Catanduanes on Nov. 13.

Provincial Director Senior Supt. Francisco B. Peñaflor Jr. said a combined police and military force arrested Noel Magno aka "Ka George" and "Ka Arvi" was arrested in Barangay Sogod Simamla, Virac.

The team seized dental instruments, syringes, acupuncture needles, Russian-made binoculars, Army uniforms, and arrows from Magno, whom the police alleged to have also served as a medical officer for the rebels.

The NPA's Nerissa San Juan Command, however, said Magno has severed his ties with the movement. *Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Cops seize firearms in Laguna raid

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Agents of the Regional Special Operations Group (RSOG) of the Calabarzon police on Tuesday raided two houses in Bay, Laguna and confiscated six unlicensed firearms.

Calabarzon police spokesperson Supt. Sergio Dimandal said RSOG operatives first swooped down on the house of Isidro Tolentino in Barangay Maitim and recovered a 5.56-cal. rifle, a 22-cal. rifle, a .45-cal. pistol and hundreds of ammunitions for the said firearms.

The police arrested Tolentino after he failed to present documents for the ownership of the guns.

Police then raided the house of Serapio Mendoza and confiscated a .45-cal. pistol, a 22-cal. rifle, a 22-cal. handgun and several magazines loaded with bullets for the seized guns. Dimandal said Mendoza was able to escape before the policemen arrived in his house. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Couple electrocuted

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A couple in Magpet, North Cotabato were electrocuted on Thursday, leaving three children behind.

Supt. Alexander Camba, North Cotabato police chief, said the first to be electrocuted was Raul Dinque, 29, who accidentally held a live wire attached to a socket inside their house in Barangay Kauswagan.

Wearing wet clothes, Dinque trembled as he held the live wire when his wife saw the incident.

Emilia grabbed her husband's body in an attempt to move it away from the power cord but she, too, died.

Camba said the children are now under the care of their grandparents. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Village chair killed in shooting

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A barangay chair was killed and four village watchmen were in critical condition after two gunmen shot them in front of the barangay hall in Dasmariñas, Cavite on Nov. 3.

Police said Dante Felismino, 52, who was serving his last term as chair of Barangay Fatima I.

PO1 Marvin Causaren, investigator of the Dasmariñas police office, said Felismino would be succeeded by his wife who topped the election in their area during the Oct. 29 elections.

Wounded were barangay *tanod* Saturnino Venorilao, Donato Sailog, Dedios Albueno and Anastacio Salamda.

Causaren said the victims were in a meeting in front of their barangay hall at around 8:45 p.m. when two unidentified men approached the group. "The wounded victims said one of the two armed men pulled out an M16 armalite and shot them at close range," Causaren said over the phone.

He said the assailants' faces were covered with handkerchiefs.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Suspected robber killed in shootout

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A suspected robber was killed in a brief shootout with policemen shortly after he and a cohort held up a student in Dasmariñas, Cavite on Nov. 7.

Cavite police chief Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas said the still unidentified man belonged to a group of robbers preying on passengers waiting for a ride along the Aguinaldo Highway in Cavite.

He said they recovered a .22-caliber revolver from the slain robber.

Posadas said that before the encounter, the man and a companion held up Estela Nazara, 20, who was waiting for a jeepney along the highway in Barangay San Agustin. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

AFP report says it can't defeat NPA by 2010

From page A1

The NPA, which is fighting for the establishment of a communist government, has waged a rebellion since 1969 that has killed more than 40,000 people. Peace talks with the government broke down in 2004.

Under fire for its human rights record and for falling behind the 2010 goal, the military readjusted its anticommunist strategy this year by focusing less on combat operations and more on information campaigns and development projects to counter civilian support for the NPA.

Bantay Laya, part II

With its new strategy, "Bantay Laya II," the military is predicting that 80 percent of the NPA's 100 bases will be dismantled by 2010, a tall order given that less than 20 camps have been removed since the beginning of 2002.

The AFP wants to flush the 6,300-member NPA out of around 19 bases in 2007. The military has removed only five bases in the first half.

Political adventurism

In its strategic assessment, the military said inadequate resources, particularly a lack of helicopters and transport planes, were a problem when trying to corner rebels living in remote, mountainous areas.

The AFP, which has been involved in over a dozen coup plots since the overthrow of Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, also said its soldiers were distracted by "political adventurism" and their deployment during elections.

The report said that soldiers could not focus on their security roles because they were overburdened with other tasks, unrealistic targets and a lack of funds.

Weak in propaganda

At the policy level, the assessment report found that the government did not prosecute enough militants and propaganda was weak.

Hundreds of leftist activists have been murdered since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001 and a United Nations rapporteur has said the military was responsible for many of the killings, which international groups say were part of a dirty war against the Left.

The military has denied the executions were official policy and has blamed rogue soldiers and internal purges within the NPA. *Reuters*

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON AUG. 23, 2007, RAYMOND and Reynaldo Manalo asked the Supreme Court to issue an order placing them under its protective custody without the participation of the military or any law enforcement agency.

The very next day, the high court issued a temporary restraining order stopping the military from harassing or arresting the brothers.

According to Jose Manuel Diokno of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), the Manalos were abducted by a group of men in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, on Feb. 14, 2006. He said the two escaped from detention in Pangasinan on Aug. 13, 2007.

Diokno said the brothers were tortured by the military, and managed to escape while their guards were having a drinking session.

Raymond said in a statement attached to the petition that then Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Sgt. Rizal Hilario and other military officers were present or actively participated in their torture.

He named some of their abductors as Michael, Madning, Puti and Pula de la Cruz, and Randy and Rudy Mendoza, purported members of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu).

He said he knew Palparan from what he saw of the latter on television.

In a 20-minute video shown to the media in September, Raymond said the military was actually after his brothers Rolando and Crisanto, suspected members of the communist New People's Army.

"Bubuhayin kami para magbabalik-loob ang mga kapatid namin (They would keep me and Reynaldo alive so our brothers would return to the fold of the law)," he said.

On Oct. 24, the Manalos asked the high court to convert their earlier petition into one for a writ of amparo.

The high court responded favorably, and issued the writ for the brothers the next day.

Under the writ of amparo, the military or the police cannot simply deny involvement in abductions or extrajudicial killings. They must also prove they are not involved and, on court orders, open their detention facilities for inspection.

Eliza Victoria, Inquirer Research

SEEKING AMPARO: The Manalo brothers, Reynaldo (left) and Raymond, during the writ of amparo hearing at the Court of Appeals. Raymond testified that he was tortured and that the allegedly dreaded general (now retired) Jovito Palparan figured prominently during the brothers' detention. ERIK ARAZAS

Escaped detainee tags Palparan

From page A1

(butcher) and accused of involvement in extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances. (Palparan retired from the military service in September 2006.)

"Sabi ko natatakot din (I told him, yes, I was afraid)," Raymond said at the hearing for his and Reynaldo's petition for a writ of amparo.

He then quoted Palparan as saying that if he wanted to see his parents again, he should do what the latter was saying—to tell them not to take part in protest rallies and not to join the human rights group Karapatan.

"Huwag daw maniniwala sa Karapatan, *niloloko lang po kami* (I was told not to believe Karapatan, they were just fooling us)," he said.

Raymond said his meeting with Palparan took place in San Miguel, Bulacan, one of several places where he and his brother were purportedly held after they were abducted from the family home in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, in February 2006. ***(See What Went Before, above.)***

Get well

Continuing with his testimony, Raymond said he told Palparan he would comply because he felt there was nothing else he could do.

The Manalos were then taken to their home, where Raymond relayed Palparan's message to their parents, and subsequently were brought back to their place of detention in San Miguel.

Raymond again saw Palparan, who asked him how he was feeling and even told him to get well and recover his strength: *"Magpagaling daw po ako at magpalakas."*

Palparan told Raymond to take the medicine that the former had left. But when the farmer did, he felt heavy and only wanted to sleep.

Raymond also testified as to how he and his brother were initially taken to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija after being abducted, and then to San Miguel more than three months later.

He said he found out he was in a military camp only when he escaped. He was, however, recaptured.

Family feud

The respondents—Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, represented by Norman Daanoy and the Office of the Solicitor General, respectively—submitted a supplemental return saying that the Manalos could have been abducted due to a feud with the Mendoza family.

The military also denied having held the brothers in its custody.

"[The feud] could have resulted in their abduction. There was no participation of the military," said Senior Solicitor Luis Simon.

Daanoy interrogated Raymond on the location of the buildings at Fort Magsaysay.

Raymond was not able to testify on the detailed affidavit he submitted yesterday to the appellate court because the justices told his lawyer, Jose Manuel Diokno, to ask only those questions that would add important details in order to save time.

Diokno also said Reynaldo's statement was the same as Raymond's, which was why the elder brother was no longer called to the stand.

Torture

In his affidavit, Raymond also said he and his brother were tortured by members of the 7th Infantry Division.

He said he was hurt by his captors when he denied that he was a member of the communist New People's Army.

Raymond also said he was splashed with urine and hot water, hit in the stomach with a wooden stick, hit on the forehead with a gun, and burned in different parts of the body.

His brother received the same treatment, he said.

Raymond claimed to have seen several other people being held captive in the places where he and his brother were detained. He named three of them as Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño, University of the Philippines students long missing, and their companion, Manuel Merino.

Raymond said Cadapan and Empeño were tortured as well, adding that he saw what was done to Cadapan but only heard Empeño's screams. He said he saw Merino being set on fire.

Raymond also said that he and his brother, along with the three, were taken to a safehouse in Zambales early this year, and then to Limay, Bataan.

He said that in Limay, he saw five corpses being brought to the camp where all five of them were being held.

Later, he said, he, Reynaldo and Merino were taken to the forest in the area.

When they returned to the camp, Raymond said Cadapan and Empeño were not there anymore, and Merino was subsequently killed.

Second time

Yesterday's hearing was the second for the Manalo brothers' petition for a protection order from the appellate court and for an investigation of their purported detention places, including military camps. It was also the second time they came to court.

The Manalos had earlier been in hiding, fearing for their lives, despite the temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court stopping the military from harming them.

The Manalos' petition was originally not for a writ of amparo but for protection because when they filed it, the rules for the writ had not yet taken effect.

The brothers later converted their petition into one for the writ of amparo, which was granted by the high court.

At another hearing, the lawyer of urban poor leader Lourdes Rubrico asked the Court of Appeals for a temporary protection order to stop the military from harassing her and her daughters.

But lawyer Rex Fernandez said the "cautious" court did not grant his plea despite his citing the high court's issuance of a TRO in the Manalos' case.

Rubrico claimed to have been arrested by the military without a warrant and detained without charges before being released.

She said she was made to sign a statement agreeing to become a military asset.

Rubrico said that after her release, she was under constant surveillance. The family home in Cavite was also being watched, she said, frightening her and her daughters and prompting them to move out.

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Agriculture Entrepreneur
for transforming the family's duck-raising livelihood into an enterprise which now involves copra-processing and charcoal-making

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Superwoman of Sweets
For establishing a venture which has brought coated peanuts, an Ilonggo delicacy, to Batangas and expanded into selling other sweets such as banana chips and polvoron

Saturnina Diez
(Masikap Visayas Awardee)
Vegetable Vixen
For having significantly uplifted her family's quality of life by venturing into vegetable and fruit farming

Rosa Pedrigosa Mayordomo
(Masikap Mindanao Awardee)
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Strangers in cyberspace rush to support Pampanga governor

By TJ Burgonio

PAMPANGA GOV. ED PANLILIO, UNDER FIRE from local officials over his exposé of alleged bribery in Malacañang, has been drawing support from complete strangers in cyberspace.

Over 1,700 people, from students to CEOs to government officials, have responded to a call to come to the aid of the embattled governor through the website wesupportgovpanlilio@gmail.com.

So far, the account created by youth leader Harvey Keh has been flooded with expressions of sympathy and offers of help.

"The response is overwhelming," Keh said.

He said e-mails were coming in by the minute. "Unbelievable. I even got responses from Ghana and Tanzania," he said in an interview by phone.

Keh, director for Youth Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship of the Ateneo de Manila University-School of Government, sent out his plea on Thursday afternoon.

Punished for telling truth

"I'd like to ask for a few minutes of your time to send an e-mail of support to Gov. Ed Panlilio. Let us all tell him that we are behind him in his quest for the truth," he said in his e-mail.

"What is at stake here is not only the people of Pampanga but the nation as a whole. Governor Ed exposed what has long been happening in Malacañang and now he is being punished for it. Will you do something about it?"

According to Keh, local officials in Pampanga led by Vice Gov. Yeng Guiao were now ganging up on Panlilio and "marginalizing him by not respecting his authority as governor" since his disclosure.

Some media publications in the province were also being used to "destroy his credibility," he added.

Of the 1,700 e-mails, Keh said his group had managed to print only 600. He planned to give copies of these to Panlilio last night, the eve of his testimony at a Senate inquiry into the alleged bribery.

"The messages were inspiring. One wrote that he'd support him if he runs for president," Keh said. "I'm happy to note that there are those who believe in good governance; and in the honesty and integrity of Among Ed."

He said that he initiated the move to rally support for the "good guys" like Panlilio.

"Otherwise, they will be eaten up by the corrupt system. We need to be able to show the bad guys that we're doing something, and we're watching over what's happening," he said in the interview.

In his e-mail, Keh said that Panlilio had performed well in less than six months in office.

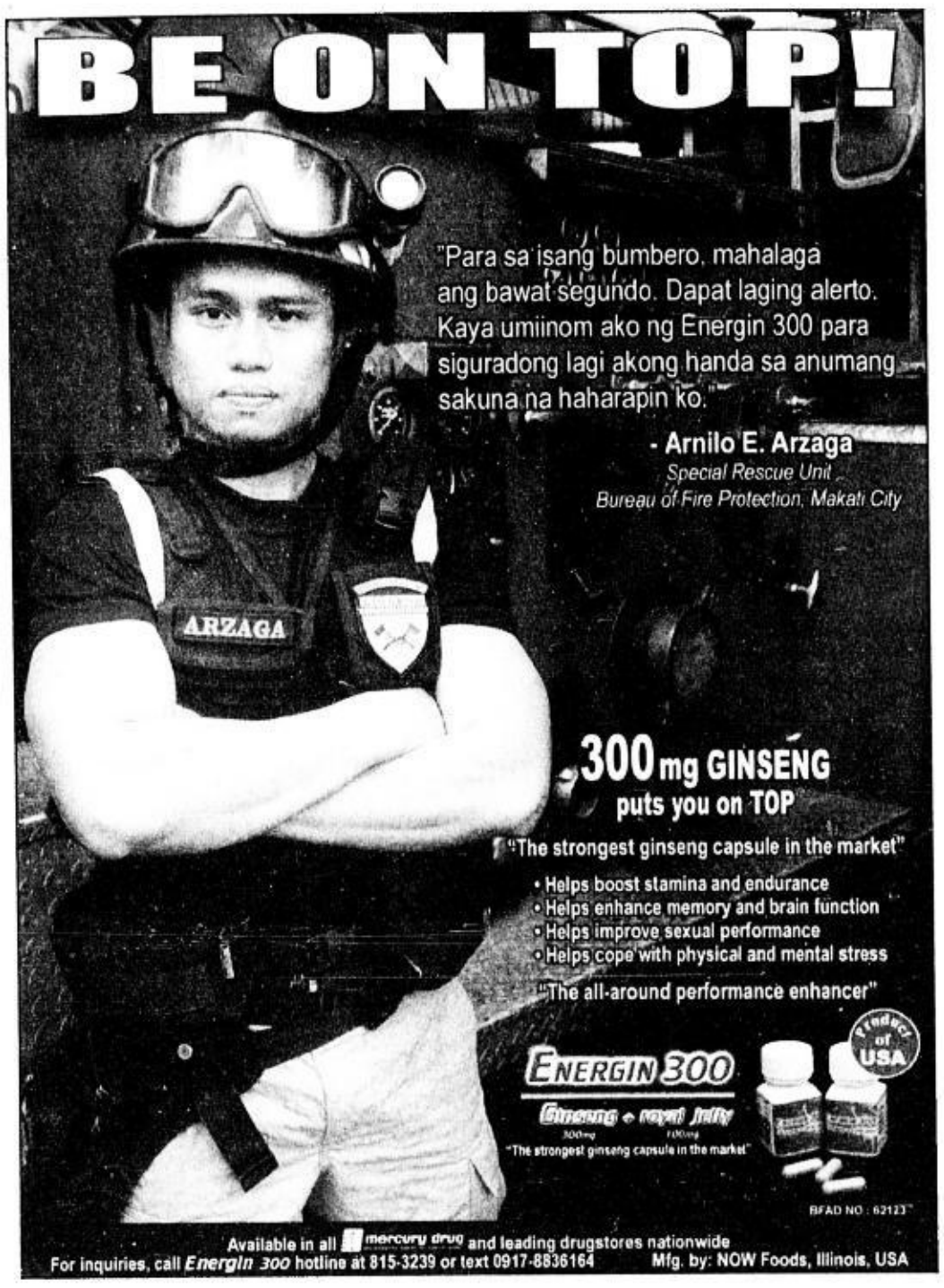
He said, for instance, that the governor had managed to collect in two months the same amount in quarry taxes that his predecessor collected in one year.

Pampanga mayors and board members were now demanding part of this money, and were blackmailing the governor by threatening not to pass key legislation that would benefit the people of Pampanga, according to Keh.

"Isn't this a familiar refrain in our country? Someone does good and yet he is often punished for doing what is right. And worse, while this is happening many of us just turn a blind eye without doing anything," he said.

"It is no wonder why majority of our government leaders are becoming bolder and bolder in becoming corrupt since for them no one would dare complain about it."

Keh said that the Filipinos deserved their current crop of leaders "because we continue to do nothing despite the fact that we see there is something wrong."



Bribery whistle-blowers charged

From page A1

vestigation Deputy Director Samuel Ong and other persons for allegedly conspiring to oust Ms Arroyo in June 2005.

Lawyer Mariano Santiago represented the group in filing the case on the eve of the Senate blue ribbon committee's inquiry into the money distributed to legislators and local officials.

He identified the respondents as Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, Misamis Occidental Gov. Leo Campos, Malolos Gov. Joselito Mendoza, Negros Oriental Gov. Emilio Macias and Representatives Antonio Cuenco, Rachel Arenas, Bienvenido Abante, Mauricio Domogan and Tomas Dumpit Jr. They allegedly were cash gift recipients.

The five-page complaint included Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, who both claimed that the P500,000 Panlilio and Mendoza each got came from the group's P21-million account for a "capability-building" program for new governors.

Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita Villarosa, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. vice president Eddie Plaza were also named corespondents as possible sources of the money.

"We are filing this complaint against them so that they will all be forced to make statements under oath," Santiago told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Santiago, a former colonel and head of the Land Transportation Office, stressed that the respondents must be investigated for divulging "contradictory" details about the supposed dole-outs.

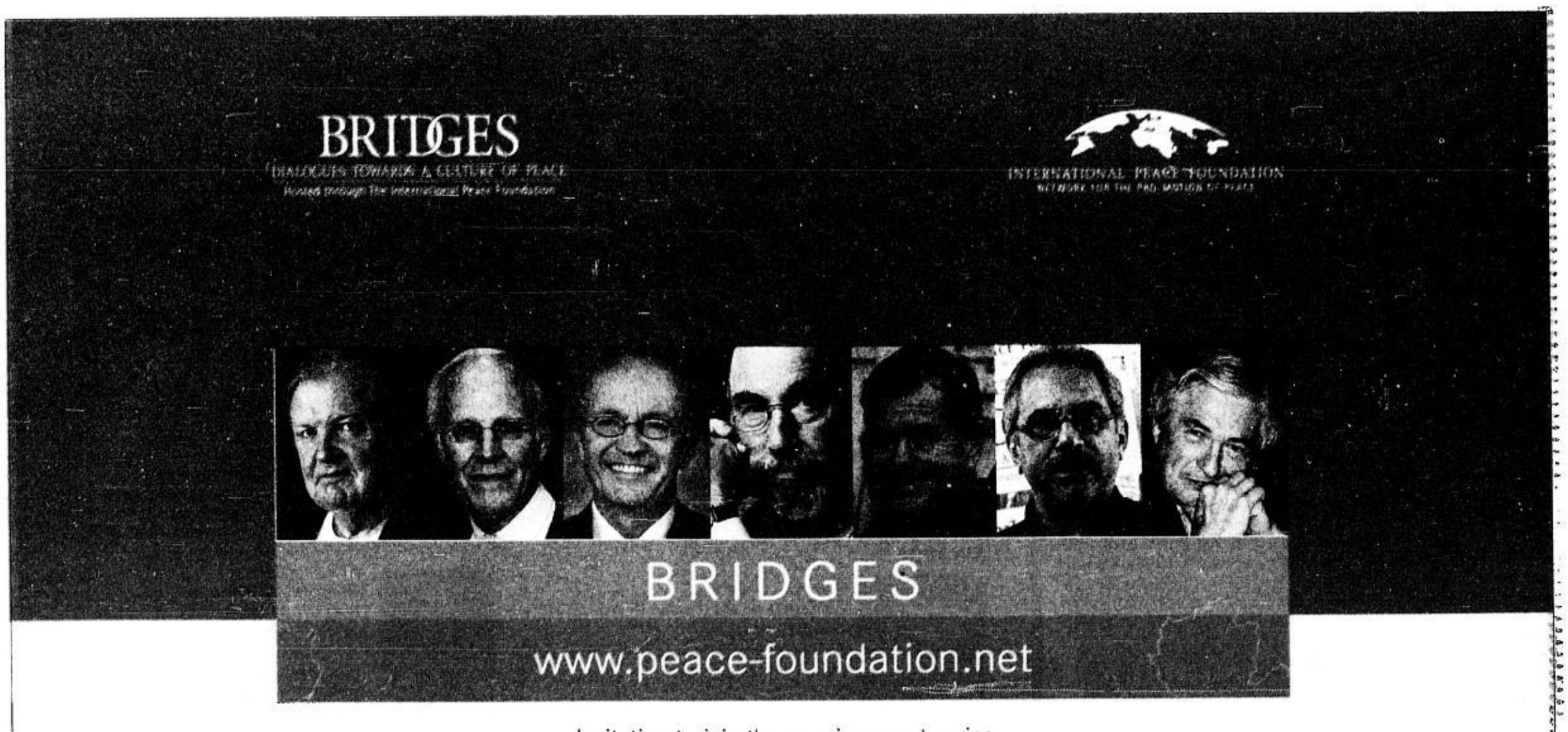
"Some cannot be telling the truth and must be lying in violation of Section 1, Article 11 of the Constitution that provides that public office is a public trust," read the complaint.

"The group is happy with what Governor Panlilio did but we need to include him so that there will be complete evidence and statements on the issue," Santiago explained.

In a statement, Magsino said that the complaint was initiated so that the antigraft body would be "forced" to act on the bribery scandal involving Malacañang, congressmen and governors, unlike its "inaction" in the other controversies hounding the Arroyo administration.

"There would have been no need for the investigation by the legislative branch of the government if only the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit were doing their jobs," Magsino said.

Among the PTLA members who signed the complaint were lawyers Romualdo Din Jr., Catalina Tumaliuan, Clarissa Castro, Eduardo Rodriguez, Vicente Pulido, Manuel Maramba, Pete Principe, Geronimo Pascual and Rogelio Velarde.



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Gov. Ed: Lone star witness in bribe probe

From page A1

given in the Palace after separate meetings Ms Arroyo had on Oct. 11 with 90 congressmen and 200 local officials.

"I will just tell the truth," said Panlilio, 53, a Catholic priest who was elected Pampanga governor in May on a crusade of good governance.

He is the only recipient of the Malacañang dole who has agreed to appear before the Senate in the first hearing of its blue ribbon committee today on allegations envelopes containing from P200,000 to P500,000 were handed out to politicians in the Palace affair.

The opposition said the money was given out in a bid by Malacañang to ram through Congress a "sham" impeachment complaint that could be easily killed and thus spare Ms Arroyo another and more substantive suit under a one-year constitutional ban.

Out of parliamentary courtesy, the Senate did not summon at least three representatives—Bienvenido Abante Jr. of Manila and Thomas Dumpit of La Union who both have admitted receiving P500,000 each, and Antonio Cuenco of Cebu, who said he got P200,000.

Deputy Speaker Ma. Amelita "Girlie" Villarosa, a member of Ms Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, later admitted that the money given to Abante and Dumpit had come from Kampi as "assistance."

Several other congressmen admitted receiving doleouts but declined to be named. Administration supporters in the Liberal Party also made similar disclosures but said details would be given at a proper forum, not at the Senate inquiry.

Abante cautioned senators against feasting on members of the lower chamber and said if they did he would take to the floor and tell them "to be more statesmanlike."

PANLILIO: First public hearing

Politics of patronage

"I'm not going there to give my opinion. I would give an honest accounting of what happened and I will not speak without concrete evidence," Panlilio told reporters after meeting with opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal at his office in San Fernando yesterday.

Madrigal said she just wanted to express her gratitude to Panlilio for bringing transparency back in government. She described him as "highly credible." On the other hand, she called Ms Arroyo a "symbol of the politics of patronage, of handouts."

Panlilio said he expected that the hearing would result in a law prescribing actions public officials should take on receiving funds or items from unknown sources.

Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza, who handed the money to Panlilio's chief of staff, had said in an Oct. 22 press conference that the two paper bags containing the cash were given to him in a room beside the Palace's Heroes Hall.

A woman, whom Mendoza could not identify, passed the bags to him in the presence of Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. official Edward Plaza and a man he did not know.

Mendoza is not attending the Senate hearing, having committed earlier to attend a youth education summit in Bulacan.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, blue ribbon chair, said Mendoza's absence would be a big letdown. He said his panel expected Mendoza to shed light on the source of the funds, a question Panlilio said he had no answer for.

Lacson claims 'baseless'

Also yesterday, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno described as "baseless" allegations by Sen. Panfilo Lacson that he used funds of the Philippine National Police (PNP) counterinsurgency campaign for the cash gifts given to politicians.

"I am sure that Senator Lacson, being a former PNP chief himself, knows that the DILG has no direct access to the funds of the PNP," Puno said.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon also said yesterday that Lacson should substantiate his claim, adding that the funds of the PNP are properly audited and disbursed.

"Whatever funds the PNP has are intended for the payment of allowances of personnel, for capital outlay, and for our units," Razon told reporters in Camp Crame yesterday.

On Monday, Lacson claimed the P160 million in cash gifts distributed in Malacañang was taken from the funds of the Police Security and Protection Office tasked with securing VIPs and the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response team. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Alcuin Papa, Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

IN THE KNOW

Trial and error?

IN 2000, THE PHILIPPINE trial Lawyers Association asked the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order on the Senate impeachment proceedings against then President Joseph Estrada.

In its petition, the PTLA asked the high court to declare as unconstitutional the Articles of Impeachment filed by the House of Representatives. The Supreme Court dismissed the petition.

When Estrada's successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, was accused in 2005 of cheating in the 2004 elections, the PTLA petitioned the Supreme Court to stop the House investigation of the alleged wiretapped conversations between the President and former Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

The PTLA argued that the probe was not connected to any proposed legislation, and was thus an abuse of legislative authority. It said the inquiry would "demean the Office of the President and disparage her stature."

The organization also asked the high court to prohibit the playing of the supposed wiretapped conversations as this would violate the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

Among PTLA's members are Commission on Human Rights Commissioner Eligio Mallari, a former president, and Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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NEO-ANGONO artists and their supporters vent their rage outside the NPC. REM ZAMORA

Artists protest at NPC

By Allison W. Lopez

SOME 60 ARTISTS CARRYING antigovernment placards demonstrated in front of the National Press Club in Intramuros, Manila, yesterday to protest state censorship and political repression.

The demonstrators, members of the Neo-Angono Artists Collective (NAAC) and the Concerned Artists of the Philippines (CAP), marched from Liwasang Bonifacio to the NPC building at 1:30 p.m. waving a 4x16-foot tarpaulin copy of the original "Press Freedom" mural that was altered by officers of the NPC to remove several features deemed "leftist."

The changes were made a day before President Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled the mural on Oct. 26.

Julie Po, head of the CAP visual arts section, said they joined the rally to tackle not just the censorship of the mural painted by the Neo-Angono artists but also other larger issues, like the extrajudicial killings of journalists and dissidents.

The steel gates of the NPC were chained shut, barring the protesters and mediamen from the premises. A security guard said none of the NPC officers were inside the building.

NPC president Roy Mabasa said that since some groups had begun taking advantage of the controversy generated by the mural, they would no longer issue further statements.

"We believe all issues from both sides have been sufficiently ventilated and we should leave room for things to cool off," he said.

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Amalia Fuentes accused of robbery by husband

Actress says 'stolen' items part of conjugal property

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE HUSBAND OF ACTRESS Amalia Fuentes yesterday accused her of robbery, a charge which she denied because according to her, the alleged stolen items are part of their conjugal property.

In a complaint filed at the Quezon City Police District Station 7 in Cubao, Joseph "Joey" Stevens, represented by his secretary, Editha Bernardo, accused Fuentes of taking several documents, cash and other items from the FMA Corp. office on P. Tuazon Street in Cubao.

Stevens, who identified himself as the owner of the firm, said that on Saturday night, Fuentes, their son Jeric, SPO3 Rodel Tuano of the San Juan City police, a locksmith identified as Edmar Ramirez and two other unidentified persons entered his office.

Assets

According to the complaint, Fuentes took from the office more than P99,000 in cash, a manager's check for P131,000, various stocks certificates, documents for the ownership of at least three vehicles, original land titles and deeds of absolute sale, a collection of foreign currencies, checkbooks and two cameras.

Contacted for comment, Fuentes told the INQUIRER, "My husband cannot sue me for robbery. I did not break into the office.

FUENTES in happier times with husband Joey Stevens RUDY ESPERAS

Those are conjugal assets. I went there to get my personal papers that he refused to give up."

"In the first place, I didn't get anything of value, just personal papers," Fuentes said.

She added that she told Stevens that she would be getting the papers from the FMA office but she did not tell him when.

Not a corporation

"FMA isn't registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. It's not a corporation, meaning, it's part of our conjugal assets," she said.

"My husband and his secretary don't seem to understand the legal rights of a wife. That's why he's breaking the law with impunity," Fuentes said.

She added that she has yet to see the complaint filed by Stevens although she clarified that she was not accompanied by her son or Tuano when she went to FMA on Saturday.

AMALIA/ A24

Armored van heist could be work of robbery gang, say police

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICE ARE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIbility that the Ampang Colangco group could be behind Monday's robbery of an armored van in Las Piñas City.

The group's modus operandi is to strike while the money is being loaded into the armored van, Senior Insp. Jandale Sulit said yesterday.

"The gang who robbed the Banco de Oro van had a similar modus operandi to the Ampang Colangco group," said Sulit, chief of the city police's investigation division.

Las Piñas City police chief, Senior Supt. Amando Clifton Empiso, has ordered more checkpoints and chokepoints to be set up in the city to catch the suspects.

On Monday morning, seven armed men robbed a Banco de Oro armored van whose personnel were picking up a deposit from the convenience store of a gasoline station on J. Aguilar Avenue, Barangay CAA in Las Piñas. The suspects made off with P400,000 in cash and not P800,000 as earlier reported, Sulit said.

Roel Mato, the van's security escort and Joseph Nietos, a BDO teller, were rushed to the Las Piñas Doctors Hospital for treatment after the suspects fired on them as they were loading the money into the van.

"We are still following up leads on the registration of the recovered getaway vehicle, a white Toyota Corolla and a black Starex van which the suspects used," Sulit said.

The suspects fled on a white Toyota Corolla with plate number TAJ 277 and two motorcycles.

The car was later recovered on Liwanag Street in Barangay Pulang Lupa 2.

The Ampang Colangco group has been linked to several bank robberies in Makati and Parañaque cities.

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More cops on streets as Christmas draws near–NCRPO

By Julie M. Aurelio

WITH CHRISTMAS JUST A FEW weeks away, police visibility in key shopping areas in Metro Manila will be stepped up with the deployment of an additional 2,000 law enforcers.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Geary Barias said the policemen would be assigned at busy shopping districts like Baclaran in Parañaque City and Quiapo and Divisoria in Manila.

"We are aware that the Christmas season also ushers in a rise in crime incidence so we will concentrate on the shopping areas," the police official said.

Apart from increased police visibility, the NCRPO will also deploy around 300 traffic enforcers to help ease up traffic in the vicinity of shopping malls.

Barias said the enforcers would be posted on main roads like Edsa as well as secondary roads.

"Heavy traffic is unavoidable, especially during the round of Christmas parties from Dec. 22 onwards," he added.

The extra security preparations being taken by the police to ensure the safety of shoppers is part of their Yuletide gift to Metro Manila residents, Barias said.

"I have also ordered our district directors to identify other shopping areas which might need additional police deployment," he added.

The order was issued following the Oct. 19 Glorietta 2 blast which left 11 persons dead and many injured.

Southern Metro Manila alone has several shopping districts, including the Glorietta malls and other Ayala-owned complexes, as well as the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Earlier, Southern Police District director Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman ordered a tighter watch on suspected criminal and terrorist elements.

The SPD chief also directed his men to be in top shape and to be on guard for the holidays.

"I told everyone to improve their performance at least a notch higher, particularly with the advent of the Yuletide season," the official told the INQUIRER in a previous interview.

Apart from more policemen on the streets, Barias also promised to improve the delivery of services in Metro Manila's police stations, such as accomplishing incident and traffic reports.

"I often hear complaints that reports do not get accomplished on time so we will hold a dialogue with police commanders to address this problem," he said.

"These are some innovations that we are doing to improve our service," Barias said.

Policewoman freed pending probe

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE POLICEWOMAN WHO accidentally shot her husband following an argument was released from detention on Monday after the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office ordered a further investigation of the case.

"I never wanted it to happen. I want to see my husband but I don't know how," PO2 Ederlinda Almonte, 28, told the INQUIRER yesterday, adding that she feared that her husband's family, who blames her for his death, would bar her from the wake.

Predicament

"I want to take my children to see their father but I cannot force his family to allow me to do so because of what happened," Almonte said.

On Sunday morning, Almonte and her husband, Darwin, 29, argued over financial and personal matters in their house in Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City.

As they were fighting, Darwin grabbed Almonte's bag where she kept her .9mm Pietro Beretta service firearm and took out the pistol.

Struggle

She tried to wrest away the firearm from Darwin but it went off, hitting her husband in the jaw just below his right ear.

Almonte told the INQUIRER that upon realizing that her husband had been shot, she prodded him to get up.

"Please stand up. I have to get you to the hospital," she recalled telling him.

Almonte added that she asked for help from her neighbors and then called up the Quezon City Police District to report the incident.

Darwin, however, was declared dead on arrival at the Far Eastern University Hospital.

Almonte, on the other hand, was detained at the QCPD Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit and charged with parricide.

Loss

She said that she wished Darwin's family would stop blaming her for what happened, adding that his death was an accident.

"All of us suffered a loss. My children lost their father and I lost my husband," Almonte said.

Negros trader loses ₱3M to car thieves in Manila

By Tina G. Santos

CAR THIEVES BROKE INTO THE parked van of a Lions Club district governor Monday afternoon, taking away items worth close to P3 million.

Victim Em Ang, 42, of Mansulingan, Bacolod City, said the thieves smashed the window of her Kia Prego van and stole a laptop, pieces of jewelry, cash and other personal belongings.

The victim's car was parked in front of an Allied Bank branch near Century Park Hotel in Vito Cruz, Manila when the incident took place around 1 p.m.

Police said the victim parked her car in the area to eat with her friends at a nearby restaurant.

When she came back, she was shocked to discover that her car's window was already broken and her belongings missing.

Police said the incident should serve as a warning to those who leave valuables inside parked cars.

Security measures in the city's parking areas will also be assessed, the police added.

Amalia Fuentes . . . From page A23

Fuentes said that her husband's action was probably motivated by her filing of a petition for legal separation from him on the grounds of infidelity at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on Oct. 25.

Marital crisis

The couple were married in Las Vegas in 1979. Last June, in an interview with the INQUIRER, they admitted that they were having a marital crisis after Fuentes discovered that Stevens was having an affair.

According to Fuentes, she is determined to set an example for wives in "similar situations"—particularly, the one in which their husbands leave them for younger women.

"I can't force him (Stevens) to live with me. What we (wives) want is what is due us. There is justice for married women. This, I hope, will be a deterrent for married men from cheating on their wives," Fuentes said, adding with a laugh, "Real men take care of their first wives."

METROBRIEFS

Japanese found dead in hotel

AUTHORITIES are puzzled over the death of a 57-year-old Japanese man whose body was found inside his room at the Soriente Hotel in Ermita, Manila yesterday afternoon. The victim was identified as Takayuki Mino. He had been shot several times, police said. Larry Florentino, 46, a hotel security guard, told investigators that he decided to check on the victim when the latter failed to check out at noon yesterday. Florentino found the victim lying lifeless with a gun on the floor of his room. The police said they are trying to determine whether the incident was a case of suicide or if there was foul play involved.

Tina G. Santos

Free blood sugar test in Manila

PEOPLE with a sweet tooth are encouraged to avail themselves of a free blood screening exam at the Manila City Hall from today in celebration of World Diabetes Day. From 7 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Manila residents can undergo testing for diabetes, one of the country's top killer illnesses. There will also be an exhibit on diabetes mellitus and smoking and audio-visual presentations on proper nutrition, daily exercise and foot care tips for diabetics. City health officer Dr. Marie Lorraine Sanchez said that a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise is the key to preventing and dealing with diabetes.

Allison W. Lopez

Early Christmas gift

THE MANDALUYONG City Hall's 3,600 workers can start their Christmas shopping this week as the city government will release their 13th month pay tomorrow. In a statement yesterday, Mayor Benhur Abalos said that the early release of their bonus would give employees ample time to buy what they need for Christmas. The budget department mandates that local governments should release the holiday bonus not earlier than Nov. 15.

Kristine L. Alave

Robbers strike twice in Pasig

ROBBERS have struck in Pasig City in two separate incidents, running off with a total of P400,000. According to a report from the Pasig City police, Winnie Martinez, 37, a supervisor residing in Greenpark Village, woke up at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday to discover that her clutch bag, which was beside her, was missing. The bag contained P240,000. Martinez told the police that her bed was near the window. On Monday afternoon, gun-toting suspects on board two motorcycles and a car robbed businessman Robert Galilea, 36, and his wife, Josephine, right after they left the Metrobank branch in Santolan, Pasig City where they had just withdrawn P161,000. The suspects also took the keys to the couple's Pajero before fleeing, Galilea said.

Kristine L. Alave

DID YOU KNOW

ON NOV. 14, 2000, some 300 traders, analysts and brokers walked out of the Philippine Stock Exchange building on Ayala Avenue in Makati City to join nationwide demonstrations calling for the resignation of then President Joseph Estrada. The walkout was a first in PSE's history. PSE employees staged another walkout against Estrada in January 2001, the month he was ousted from office amid corruption charges. ***Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research***

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

2008 INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES (ICHS) NFA CEBU

190,400 MT (3,808,000 Bags) OF IMPORTED RICE TO BE UNLOADED BY MEANS OF INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES (ICHS), to include unloading of cargoes from foreign vessel to truck or local vessel; trucking service from one area/warehouse/ port of destination and handling of stocks within NFA warehouses

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2008* intends to apply the sum of ***Ninety Seven Million Five Hundred Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Seven Pesos & 73/100 (P 97,512,797.73)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the 2008 Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS) for NFA Cebu.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS) for NFA Cebu. The ICHS involves the unloading of imported rice from foreign vessels to NFA designated warehouses in Metro Cebu, to include, among others, wharfage, stevedoring, arrastre, use of tugboat, crane, strip cleaning, trimming, bagging, rebagging, Custom's overtime, checkering charges, special/standby charges, hauling, weighing, handling, etc. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2008, or upon completion of the services for the 190,400 MT volume, whichever is applicable.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Bidders must have a Largest Single Contract that is completed and accomplished within the twelve month period between 2004 up to the present which is similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid and the value thereof must be at least 50% of the ABC. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting November 15, 2007 to November 27, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Eighty Thousand Pesos (P80,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***November 28, 2007 @ 9:00 AM*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *December 11, 2007 not later than 9:00 AM.*

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid in the following form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash /Cashier's/Managers Check	One Percent (1%)
GSIS Surety Bond marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Hall Percent (2.5%)
Notarized Bank Guarantee	One & a Half Percent (1.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***December 11, 2007 @ 9:00 AM*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr, Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders and or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bids most advantageous to the government or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
RAUL B. CHONG
Banilad, Cebu City
Tel No. 032- 232-1939
email address : nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
Fax no. 032-233-6095
website : www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) RAUL B. CHONG
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI – November 14, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
SHINNITTETSU ENGINEERING PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 1503 Herrera Tower cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Eisaku Kugimiya Japanese	Chief Administrative Manager
SHINNITTETSU ENGINEERING PHILIPPINE BRANCH Unit 1503 Herrera Tower cor. Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Seiichi Konishi Japanese	Fabrication Engineer
RMH TELESERVICES ASIA PACIFIC INC. 6/F ELJCC ABS-CBN Cmpd., Mo. Ignacia St., Quezon City	Henning Christian Dettbarn American	Assistant Vice President of Collections
MACRO*WORLD RESEARCH PHILIPPINES INC. 9/F SSHG Law Center, 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Bruce Taylor Cusic American	Contact Center Site Manager
TONG KEUN CALL SERVICE CORPORATION Unit W-3302A West Tower, PSEC Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sang Su Nam Korean	Supervisor
LE TAI HENG LAND CORPORATION 2502-E Atlanta Centre, 31 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan City	Chee Siong Tan (Chen Zhixiong) Singaporean	General Manager
JULIANA KARAOKE BAR AND RESTAURANT INC. EDSA Ext. cor. P. Celle, Pasay City	Kwang Hyeon Kim Korean	Supervisor
LOVELYMOON PENSION INN & COFFEE SHOP 1718 J. Bocobo St., Malate, Manila	Shinji Takahashi Japanese	Operation Manager
JAIMAALAKSHMI LENDING & TRADING CORP. U-112 3a Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City	Kaur Kuljeet Indian	Supervisor
NEOBIO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Stall No. N10 N2 07 05 03 01 2/F Shoppers Gold Bldg., 464 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Hyoung Chul Kim Korean	Marketing Director

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–November 14, 2007)

AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR SECURITY SERVICES

1. The **AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM (AFP-RSBS)** now invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Security Services for the following AFP-RSBS properties as stated below:

PROJECT	LOCATION	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID DOCUMENTS (non-refundable)
Security Services for Riviera Residential Estates	Silang, Cavite	30	P 5.928M	P 10,000.00
Security Services for San Lorenzo South	Sta. Rosa City, Laguna	15	P 2.880M	P 5,000.00
Security Services for IPMO	Taguig City	11	P 2.251M	P 5,000.00
Janitorial Services for IPMO	Taguig City	11	P 1.737M	P 5,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
3. Interested parties shall submit proposal/s on any or all of the aforementioned projects. One project is equivalent to a single award or contract, separate and distinct from each other.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **AFP-RSBS** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents will be available for issuance to interested applicants from **Nov. 22, 2007** and may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount as above-stated. The method of payment will be *cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *AFP-RSBS* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **Dec. 10, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFPRSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or **before 9:00 a.m. of Dec. 21, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *cash, check or bank guarantee* and in the amount specified in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening** shall be on **Dec. 21, 2007, 9:05 a.m.** at the **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the following address

Bids and Awards Committee
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9118714/9120056

10. The *AFP-RSBS* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) MR. MICHAEL A. SANCHEZ
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - November 14, 2007)

UN urges Burma parties to speed up reconciliation

UNITED NATIONS—UN CHIEF Ban Ki-moon on Monday urged Burma's (Myanmar) ruling junta and opposition to redouble their efforts to achieve national reconciliation and full respect for human rights.

Meanwhile Human Rights Watch on Monday appealed to China, Thailand, the United States, and other countries to slap targeted sanctions on Burma's gem business ahead of the opening of a major gem auction in Yangon this week.

In a statement, Ban again described a return to the status quo that existed prior to the current crisis as "not sustainable." He pressed the "government and all relevant parties to redouble their efforts towards achieving national reconciliation, democracy and full respect for human rights."

Ban, currently on a South American tour, was briefed on Monday by phone by his special envoy Ibrahim Gambari on his recent six-day visit to the restive southeast Asian country.

The UN chief "looks forward to (Gambari's) early return to Burma as part of an open and regular process of mutual engagement" and voiced hope that the process launched as a result of Gambari's mediation "will lead to a meaningful and substantive dialogue with concrete outcomes within an agreed timeframe." The Nigerian troubleshooter, who is back at UN headquarters, on Monday conferred with the president of the UN General Assembly, Srgjan Kerim.

Kerim stressed that "this process must achieve concrete results and a clear commitment on the part of the government of Burma is required to work constructively with the special advisor (Gambari)."

Tuesday afternoon, Gambari was to brief the 15-member Security Council on his latest mediation between Burma's ruling generals and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. *AFP*

2 more Pol Pot aides charged

PHNOM PENH—CAMBODIA'S "KILLING Fields" court charged former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister Ieng Sary and his wife on Monday with crimes against humanity, the latest members of Pol Pot's inner circle to face justice.

The octogenarian Ieng Sary, who became the international face of the Beijing-backed ultra-Maoist revolution after it was overthrown by a 1979 Vietnamese invasion, also stands accused of war crimes, a court spokesperson said.

Ieng Sary and Khieu Thirith—sister of Pol Pot's first wife, Khieu Ponnary—were arrested soon after dawn by rifle-toting police who sealed off the Phnom Penh villa where they have lived since cutting a deal and surrendering in 1996.

They were then whisked away in a police convoy to the court compound on the western outskirts of the capital to face the Cambodian and international judges probing their alleged role in one of the 20th century's darkest chapters.

An estimated 1.7 million people were executed or died of torture, disease or starvation under the Khmer Rouge's four-year reign of terror between 1975 and 1979.

Ieng Sary has denied having anything to do with the mass killings but spent much of the 1980s defending Pol Pot at the United Nations while remnants of his black-shirted guerrilla army continued to fight from the jungle.

He and Khieu Thirith are the third and fourth senior cadres to be arrested since the $56 million UN-backed tribunal got off the ground in earnest this year after almost a decade of delays.

Duch, who ran the "S-21" interrogation and torture center at Phnom Penh's former Tuol Sleng high school, has been charged with crimes against humanity, as has "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea, who is also accused of war crimes.

While Nuon Chea has proclaimed his innocence, Duch, in interviews with Western reporters, has confessed to his role in the mass killings and is expected to be a key witness against other senior regime figures. *Reuters*

What is World COPD Day?

World COPD Day 2007 is an event held every November organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD), with support from the International COPD Coalition (ICC), World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) and Global Alliance for Respiratory Disease (GARD). It represents a partnership between health care groups and respiratory educators to raise awareness about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

COPD is a highly prevalent disease, has a large impact on quality of life for patients and their families, and kills millions of people worldwide. The increasing burden of COPD disease is partly due to the aging of the world's population and partly to the continued use of tobacco, the most important risk factor for this disease.

The early stages of COPD are often unrecognized, but it is very easy to determine whether a person is at risk. If COPD is detected early, treatments are available to prevent further deterioration of lung function.

The theme of this year's World COPD Day is "Breathless not Helpless." The theme was chosen to emphasize that breathlessness and other symptoms of COPD are not simply a normal part of aging, and that there is treatment available to help people with COPD.

World COPD Day calls for physicians, public authorities, and national organizations to work together to bring awareness to COPD.

Ultimately, this effort will:
- significantly reduce deaths from COPD
- cut the number of hospitalizations due to COPD
- reduce the rate of new cases of COPD developing.

World COPD Day activities include:
- Public Service Announcements, posters, billboards, stickers, newspaper articles, and radio advertisements highlighting the theme of World COPD Day 2007.
- Demonstrations of spirometry.
- World COPD Day walks, runs, and swims involving participants with COPD and their family and friends.
- Exercise classes, dance performances, coping skills workshops, and support group sessions to help COPD patients live active, fuller lives.
- Clinics and health fairs to bring attention to COPD and provide information about good COPD care.
- Seminars for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers on the latest international guidelines for COPD diagnosis and treatment.

What is COPD?

COPD stands for "Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease"

COPD is a common lung disease that blocks the airways, making breathing difficult. COPD is usually caused by smoking or exposure to fumes or very dusty places. Symptoms of COPD include coughing, bringing up phlegm or mucus, and getting short of breath.

If you are over 40 and have these symptoms, go see your doctor and ask about COPD!

COPD can be treated! Although there is no cure, doctors can help you feel better and slow damage to your lungs.

How can you help yourself if you have COPD?

1. Stop smoking. Ask for help to quit.
2. Take each medicine the way the doctor says to take it. Go to the doctor at least two times a year for checkups.
3. Go to the hospital or doctor right away if your breathing gets bad.
4. Keep the air clean at home.
5. Keep your body strong. Walk, exercise regularly, and eat healthy foods.
6. If your COPD is severe, get the most out of your breath. Make life as easy as possible at home.

How can you help someone who has COPD?

1. Help him stop smoking.
2. Take her to the doctor for checkups.
3. Act fast in an emergency. Know how to get to the doctor or hospital if his breathing gets bad.
4. Join her for a walk or other gentle exercise. Help her keep her body strong.
5. Buy and prepare healthy foods for him to eat-lots of protein, fruits, and vegetables. Help him reach and maintain a healthy weight.
7. Arrange things at home so that she will not need to climb stairs or move around as often.
8. Help him with everyday tasks so that he can get the most out of each breath.

WORLDBRIEFS

7 killed in Iraq shooting

BAGHDAD—At least seven Iraqis were killed early Tuesday, including a policeman and his 13-year-old son gunned down in northern Iraq, police said Capt. Mohammed Jamil, a Kurd, was driving his family through their ethnically mixed hometown of Kirkuk, when a sedan pulled up alongside him, according to Col. Sardar Moufri, one of Jamil's colleagues. Four men riding in the sedan showered Jamil's car with bullets, killing him and his son, Moufri said. Jamil's wife was injured in the attack, which happened around 8 a.m., he said. *AP*

Pope Benedict to visit US

WASHINGTON—Pope Benedict XVI will pay his first visit to the United States next April, officials said on Monday, at a time when the US Catholic Church is struggling to overcome a long-running pedophilia scandal. The Pontiff will visit Washington and New York April 15-20 to celebrate open-air Masses at baseball stadiums, visit Ground Zero and to address the United Nations, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said. Church elders said the first papal visit to the United States since Pope John Paul II last came in 1999 was an occasion to rejoice. "This is a blessed moment for our nation," USCCB president Bishop William Skylstad said in a statement. *AFP*

Gunfire kills 7 in Gaza rally

GAZA—Gunfire killed at least seven people and wounded 80 on Monday at a Fatah memorial rally for Yasser Arafat attended by more than 200,000 supporters of the defeated faction in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. A sea of yellow Fatah flags had filled a Gaza square for the biggest gathering held by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's secular faction in the territory since Hamas Islamists routed its fighters there in June. The rare Fatah rally broke up in chaos after gunfire rang out and grew into what Hamas described as battles with the rival group's fighters, forcing even members of the crowd who had initially stood their ground to bolt for cover. *Reuters*

London blaze under control

LONDON—A large blaze destroyed an empty warehouse near the site of the London 2012 Olympics on Monday before more than 70 fire fighters brought it under control, the London fire brigade said. No one was hurt but the fire produced a thick, dark cloud of smoke that filled the sky over east London. It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze but police ruled out terrorist activity. "Not at all," said a police spokesperson. "It's a fire—a very large fire." Fifteen fire engines and 75 firemen battled for nearly four hours to bring the flames under control *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
November 14, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Koji Kariya/ Japanese	Manager - Frame Steel
2.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Yoshimitsu Shigeto/ Japanese	Technical Adviser - R & D Structure
3.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Hideaki Ishii/ Japanese	Manager - R & D Floor Heating System
4.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Keiji Koike/ Japanese	Technical Adviser - R & D Built-in Kitchen
5.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. CEZ, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Motoki Uesugi/ Japanese	Manager - Unit Siding
6.	MY-OK LANGUAGE TUTORIAL CORPORATION Tagaytay Road, Brgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa City	Ms. Hyunjin Lee/ Korean	Teacher
7.	TALENT KTV & RESTAURANT Bautista Arcade, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	Ms. Tae Suk Kim (w/o Park)/ Korean	Sales & Marketing Consultant
8.	AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Ms. Hyuna Ju/ Korean	Senior, ICS/SAP
9.	AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Ms. Jae Yul Lee/ Korean	Section Manager, ICS/SAP
10.	AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Gye Haeng Lee/ Korean	Department Manager, SAP/HRD
11.	AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Hakjae Won/ Korean	Department Manager, ICS-SAP/TFT
12.	ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PTC, Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Satoru Kambayashi/ Japanese	Tr/Di M/C Control Department Manager
12.	INGO MANUFACTURING PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Binan, Laguna	Mr. Anthony Kortleve-Snider/ Canadian	Director and President

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI-November 14, 2007)

2nd ANNOUNCEMENT
CALL FOR NCCA MEMBERSHIP

The **National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)** is currently updating its database for the general membership for each of its **19 National Committees (NCs)**, namely, Committees on **Architecture and Allied Arts, Archives, Art Galleries, Central Cultural Communities, Cinema, Communication, Cultural Education, Dance, Dramatic Arts, Historical Research, Language and Translation, Libraries and Information Services, Literary Arts, Monuments and Sites, Museums, Music, Northern Cultural Communities, Southern Cultural Communities**, and **Visual Arts**. The NCCA is now accepting applications for those interested to be part of the general membership of any of the above-mentioned NCs.

To qualify as a general member, specific criteria which have been set by each of the 19 NCs should apply. Possible nominees for the **13 Executive Council Members (ExeCon Members)** who will compose the Executive Council of each of the 19 NCs shall be drawn from the qualified general members.

Membership Application Forms and **Specific Criteria for Membership** to a particular committee are available at the **Project Management Division (PMD)** or you may log on to **www.ncca.gov.ph** for more information. For inquiries, you may contact the PMD at the following telephone numbers: **527-2214, 527-2209** or at **527-2192** locals **502** to **509**.

You may submit the accomplished membership application form, curriculum vitae with 2x2 photograph and endorsements to the PMD thru fax at **527-2198 / 527-2194** or mail to **National Commission for Culture and the Arts, 5th Floor, 633 General Luna Street, Intramuros 1002 Manila** on or before **November 16, 2007** at **5 p.m.**

Schedule of Elections of the Subcommissions and National Committees:

November 27, 2007		Northern Cultural Communities
November 30, 2007	–	Central Cultural Communities
December 3, 2007		Southern Cultural Communities
December 4, 2007	–	Historical Research
December 5, 2007	–	Architecture and Allied Arts, Archives, Central Cultural Communities
December 6, 2007	–	Cinema, Monuments and Sites
December 7, 2007	–	Music, Art Galleries
December 10, 2007		Literary Arts
December 11, 2007		Visual Arts, Libraries & Information Services, Subcommission on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts (General Assembly/ Election)
December 12, 2007	–	Communication, Language and Translation, Cultural Education, Dramatic Arts, Subcommission on Cultural Dissemination
December 13, 2007	–	Dance
December 14, 2007	–	Subcommission on the Arts, Subcommission on Cultural Heritage

(PDI–November 14, 2007)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bhutto to Musharraf: It's time to quit

LAHORE—PAKISTANI OPPOSITION LEADER Benazir Bhutto called Tuesday on Pervez Musharraf to quit as president and vowed never to serve under him, in her most direct challenge yet to the military ruler.

Holed up under house arrest with close aides in Lahore as more than 1,000 police manned barbed wire barricades outside, she urged the world to abandon the president, seen by many in the West as vital to the "war on terror."

"It is over with Musharraf," she told AFP in an interview from inside the residence where she has been detained to prevent her leading a mass procession against emergency rule.

"Gen. Musharraf must quit. He must quit as president and as chief of Army staff. I call on the international community to stop backing him—to stop backing the man whose dictatorship threatens to engulf this nuclear-armed state in chaos."

BHUTTO AFP

MUSHARRAF AFP

The two-time former premier, who had been in Western-backed power-sharing negotiations with Musharraf, said he was a failed leader for imposing a state of emergency 10 days ago, suspending the constitution, sacking senior judges and cracking down on political dissent and the media.

"I would not serve as prime minister under a man who has repeatedly broken his promises, who is a dictator," Bhutto told AFP.

"Look what he is giving to the nation—imposing an emergency, suspending the constitution and cracking down on democratic forces. We gave him a roadmap for a peaceful transition but he has flouted that." Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, is struggling to contain a wave of anger over emergency rule which has not eased despite his pledge of general elections by Jan. 9. *AFP*

Russian oil spill kills 30,000 birds

PORT KAVKAZ, RUSSIA—MORE THAN 30,000 birds have been killed by the thousands of tons of oil that leaked after a heavy storm broke a tanker apart near the Black Sea, according to the governor of the disaster-hit region.

Countless other birds, weighed down by thick coatings of the fuel oil, hopped weakly along the shore or sat helplessly in the sand on Monday. Workers with pitchforks and shovels started the backbreaking labor of gathering up vast clumps of oil mixed with sand and seaweed.

The spill from a tanker that split apart Sunday in the strait connecting the Black and Azov Seas is seen as potentially the worst environmental disaster in the region in recent years. It prompted criticism that many Russian tankers aren't seaworthy.

"Some 30,000 birds have died and it's not possible to count how many fish. The damages are so great that it's hard to assess. It can be equated with an ecological catastrophe," said Alexander Tkachev, the governor of the Krasnodar region, Monday, according to the Interfax news agency.

Another regional official, Sergei Zaitsev, was quoted as saying that much of the oil still on the water's surface could congeal in the wintry temperatures, forming globs that drop to the seabed.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov to fly to the region to assess the disaster and clean-up efforts.

As many as 10 ships sank or ran aground in the storm, including the freighter Nakhichevan, which broke up and spilled a load of sulfur, officials said. The bodies of three sailors from the Nakhichevan washed up on shore Monday and rescuers were looking for five missing crewmen, said Emergency Situations Ministry spokesperson Sergei Kozhemyaka. *AP*

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Chocolate came from C. America 3,100 years ago

WASHINGTON—THE CHOCOLATE enjoyed around the world today had its origins at least 3,100 years ago in Central America not as the sweet treat people now crave but as a celebratory beer-like beverage and status symbol, scientists said on Monday.

Researchers identified residue of a chemical compound that comes exclusively from the cacao plant—the source of chocolate—in pottery vessels dating from about 1100 BC in Puerto Escondido, Honduras.

This pushed back by at least 500 years the earliest documented use of cacao, an important luxury commodity in Mesoamerica before European invaders arrived and now the basis of the modern chocolate industry.

Cacao seeds were used to make ceremonial beverages consumed by elites of the Aztecs and other civilizations, while also being used as a form of currency.

The Spanish conquistadors who shattered the Aztec empire in the 16th century were smitten with a chocolate beverage made from cacao seeds served in the palace of the emperor. However, this was not the form in which cacao had its beginnings.

"The earliest cacao beverages consumed at Puerto Escondido were likely produced by fermenting the sweet pulp surrounding the seeds," the scientists wrote in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Gutsy Gonzalez adds to Federer's late season woes

/A29

SPORTS

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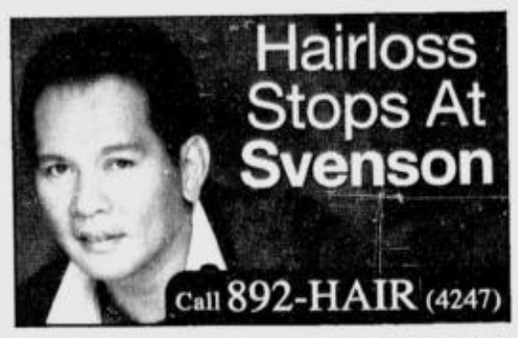

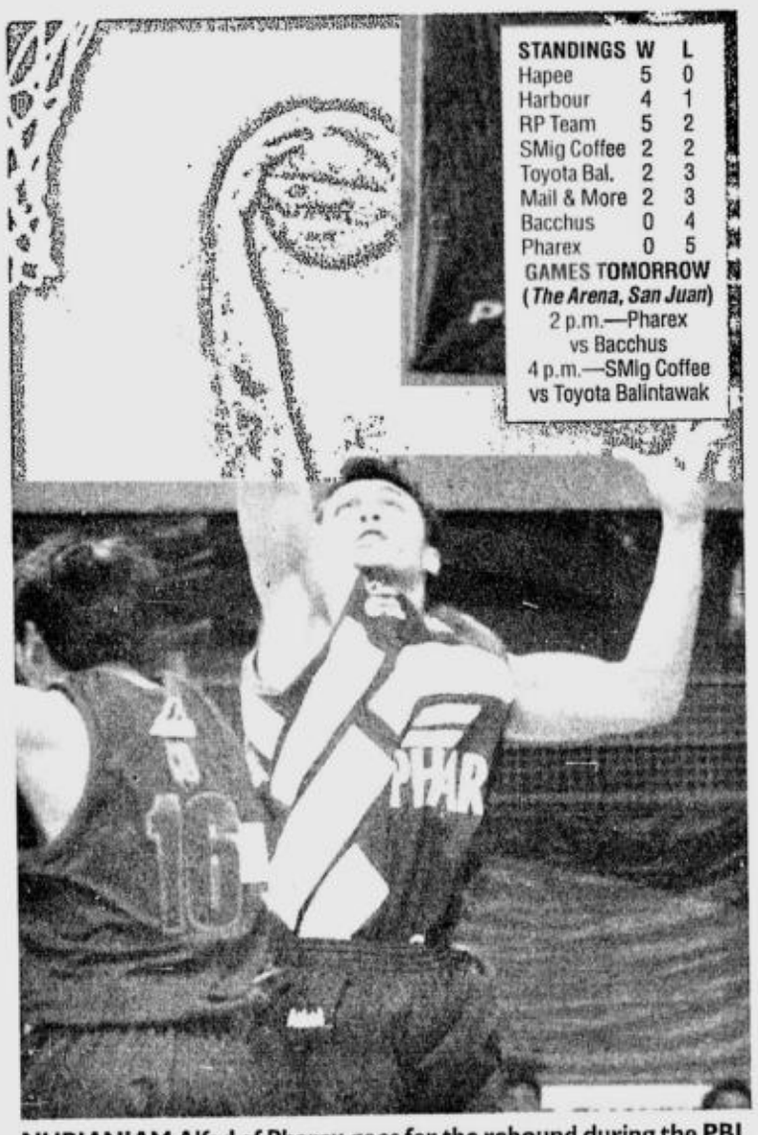

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	5	0
Harbour	4	1
RP Team	5	2
SMig Coffee	2	2
Toyota Bal.	2	3
Mail & More	2	3
Bacchus	0	4
Pharex	0	5

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—Pharex vs Bacchus
4 p.m.—SMig Coffee vs Toyota Balintawak

NURJANJAM Alfad of Pharex goes for the rebound during the PBL game held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. RAFFY LERMA

Borboran 3-mendous as Hapee pulls thru

Protectors pip Batang Pier, keep unbeaten streak

By Jasmine W. Payo

HAPEE TOOTHPASTE HUNG TOUGH IN the final minute to hold off Harbour Centre, 77-76, and claim the solo lead in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Mark Borboran drained a three-pointer at the 1:31 mark to snap a 74-all deadlock and the Complete Protectors foiled the Batang Pier the rest of the way to ice their fifth victory in as many games.

"You can see the boys' determination, they don't want to lose," said Hapee coach Jun Noel. "We're about 40 percent (in terms of) jelling. But that already made a difference; they're getting familiar with each others' moves."

After Borboran, the University of the East's top gun, buried the key triple that gave Hapee a 77-74 lead, Harbour Centre still had its chances to reverse the outcome.

Rico Maierhofer knocked in an undergoal stab to trim the deficit to one but the Batang Pier, who slipped to second with a 4-1 record, failed to get anything going after that.

In the second game, Mail and More clinched their second straight triumph with a 73-64 decision over newcomer Pharex.

Khiel Misa shot a game-high 20 points including three straight triples in a key stretch in the final four minutes for a 68-61 Comets advantage.

The scores:

First Game

HAPEE 77—Borboran 13, Rodriguez 13, Juntilla 12, Norwood 9, Grijaldo 7, Espiritu 6, Mercado 5, Quinday 4, Hugnatan 4, Daa 2, Saguindel 2, Viray 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 76—Maierhofer 14, Tang 12, Ababou 11, Gaco 11, Mercado 10, Asoro 9, Cañizares 4, Jahnke 3, Gamboa 2, Taylor 0, Gonzales 0.

Quarters: 20-21, 45-39, 66-59, 77-76

Second Game

MAIL AND MORE 73—Misa 20, David 9, Ballesteros 8, Bravo 8, Baracael 7, Gregorio 6, Arellano 5, Bonus 5, Canlas 2, Masbang 2, Bauzon 1, Santos 0 Co 0, White 0.

PHAREX 64—Gerilla 16, Oreta 8, Matias 8, Bulawan 7, Co 7, Alfad 6, Espiritu 5, De Guzman 3, Aquino 2, Allera 2, Soriano 0, Burtscher 0.

Quarters: 11-19, 33-39, 51-52, 73-64

RP five shows resolve at last

Hail of treys sinks US Navy selection

By Roy Luarca

SINGAPORE—JUNEL BACULI FINALLY got a glimpse of what he wanted to see from the Harbour Centre-Philippine Team Monday night.

"Finally, I saw their killer instinct," said Baculi after steering the Nationals to a 105-58 dumping of the United States Navy selection Monday night at the Singapore Basketball Centre. "Unlike before, when they tend to relax after posting a big lead, they worked hard till the end."

The Nationals' clinical victory, anchored on torrid outside shooting and relentless pressing defense, eased some of the coaching staff's concerns over their readiness to defend the Southeast Asian Games men's basketball crown in Thailand next month.

"They (Nationals) are now more competitive," said Baculi. "If they play the same way (in Thailand), we stand a good chance of attaining our goal in the SEAG," said Baculi.

With Boyet Bautista at the firing end, the Nationals surged to a 56-23 halftime edge and breezed to their second straight victory in a four-game tune-up series here arranged by Harbour Centre owner and amateur basketball "godfather" Mikee Romero.

The Nationals dumped the Singapore national team, 90-42, on Sunday.

The Singapore Slingers, a professional team that competes in the Australian National Basketball League, are expected to test the Nationals' mettle when they collide at the Jurong Indoor Stadium Tuesday night.

The Slingers boast an average ceiling of 6-foot-5 ½, with 6-10 Chris Cameron and David Donaldson manning the slot. Four others, including Amercian Rod Grizzard, stand at 6-8.

The Slingers beat the Nationals in the Brunei Cup in August and split their assignments against the PBA's Sta. Lucia Realtors.

"That's the best game (against US Navy) we've played thus far," said Romero.

Highlighted by Bautista's six triples, the Nationals peppered their rivals with a total of 18 from three-point territory.

The scores:

RP-HARBOUR CENTRE 105—Bautista 20, Fernandez 14, Chan 13, Belga 11, Salangsang 9, Alonso 6, Cruz 6, Crisano 5, Tiu 5, Vergara 5, Cabahug 2.

US NAVY 58—Adams 14, Chad 10, Nicholas 8, Miller 8, Aaron 7, Williams 7, Smith 2, Lawrence 2.

Quarters: 29-14, 56-23, 76-43, 105-58

AT THE FIRING END: Letran spitfire Boyet Bautista hits six triples.

Lipa, Norwood boost quint's SEAG chances

By Jasmine W. Payo

KEY FIGURES RETURNING TO NATIONAL duty aim to provide a boost for the Harbour-Philippine Team vying for the men's basketball gold in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games.

Former national coach Joe Lipa was tapped as special adviser, a day after Hapee Toothpaste gave the green light for Fil-Am Gabe Norwood's inclusion in the squad.

"We all know what coach Joe has done, how much he loves the game and this country, and how passionate he is about sharing his knowledge," said Chino Trinidad, PBL commissioner and SEAG delegation head.

Trinidad said the multi-titled mentor will provide "another set of discerning eyes who can contribute valuable inputs" to head coach Junel Baculi.

Lipa said in a statement: "I will always be available to help our country in its quest for international basketball glory."

The 22-year-old Norwood, who suited up for the all-pro national team in the Fiba Asia Championship in Tokushima, said the SEAG-bound Nationals are "definitely talented."

"I'm up for the challenge," he said. "Hopefully, we'll all get together in the same page pretty quick. I'll do whatever is asked of me. I'll play defense, I'll pass the ball, I'll rebound."

Norwood's inclusion came at the heels of the PBL board's approval of a proposal to adjust the league calendar to give way to the Harbour-RP team's SEAG stint and training.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

JRU'S Alvin Se drives hard to the hoop.

Bombers pound Mustangs, gain Last 8

GAMES TODAY (*Blue Eagle Gym*)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs San Sebastian

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE JOSE RIZAL BOMBERS COASTed to the Round of Eight, hammering out an 83-61 decision over the West Negros College Mustangs yesterday in the Fil-Oil/Flying-V National Collegiate Champions League at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

James Sena scattered 23 points and 14 rebounds for the Bombers, the sixth team to advance to the quarterfinals after the San Beda Red Lions, the Santo Tomas Tigers, the Far Eastern Tamaraws, the STI Olympians and the University of Mindanao Wildcats.

The Olympians and the Wildcats earned outright berths after top-seeded La Salle Green Archers and fourth-ranked University of the East Warriors pulled out of the tournament among the top 16 college teams in the country.

Jayson Nocum chipped in 17 points while Mark Pradas added 13.

"We're really prepared to play (Alfie) Villariza and (Vengie) Vergara; and it just so happened that JRU had a good shooting day," said coach Ariel Vanguardia of the standouts from WNC, champion of the Negros Occidental Private Schools Sports Cultural and Educational Association.

San Beda crushed Tacloban-based Sacred Heart College, 105-48, last Monday with Lions forward Raymund Maggay topscoring with 18 points.

UST, though, went through the wringer before Darryl Basa scored on a putback with 3.1 seconds remaining to lift the Tigers past Mapua, 91-90.

Basa also nailed a key triple with 1:03 minutes left that cut the Tigers' deficit by a point, 88-89.

The scores:

JRU 83—Sena 23, Nocom 17, Pradas 13, Cagoco 10, Hayes 8, Se 6, Bulangis 4, Ramos 2, Montemayor 0, Lituania 0, Kablgting 0, Cruz 0.

WEST NEGROS 61—Villariza 23, Vergara 12, Dapar 12, Lauron 7, Melarin 7, Sumido 0, Baydo 0, Jaca 0, Javelona 0.

Quarters: 28-8, 41-26, 64-39, 83-61

Monday Results

First Game

UST 91—Allera 25, Ababou 23, Cuan 12, Canlas 12, Mirza 8, Basa 5, Gile 4, Dizon 2, Taylor 0, Cortez 0.

MAPUA 90—Co 22, Dela Peña 19, Banal 15, Pascual 10, Guillermo 6, Cornejo 5, Acosta 4, Del Rosario 3, Palomique 3, Sumalinog 3, Mazo 0.

Quarters: 26-14, 43-38, 59-70, 91-90

Second Game

SAN BEDA 105—Maggay 16, Menor 13, Lanete 12, Escobal 11, Taganas 10, Caram 8, Hermida 8, Ekwe 7, Gamalinda 7, Marcelo 6, Tirona 4, Padilla 3.

SACRED HEART 48—Quinto 18, Opana 10, Tan 6, Gallanza 4, Baje 3, Macatumbas 3, Lolpega 2, Fornillos 2, Muldes 0, Abella 0.

Quarters: 42-8, 66-16, 84-28, 105-48

Rampaging Giants seek 7th win in a row

Ballclubs keeping their candidates for commissioner close to chest

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	6	0
Magnolia	4	2
Talk 'N Text	4	3
Alaska	4	3
Red Bull	3	3
Air21	2	3
Welcoat	2	4
Ginebra	2	4
Sta. Lucia	2	4
Coca-Cola	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:50 p.m.—Purefoods vs. Air21
7:20 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs. Coca-Cola

PUREFOODS SEEKS TO EXTEND A FRANchise-best start to seven games today when the sizzling Tender Juicy Giants battle Air21 in the eliminations of the Smart PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Game time is 4:50 p.m. with the odds stacked in favor of the Giants.

But coach Ryan Gregorio cautioned his boys to never take it easy against the Express, a team that can run with the best of them.

"They (Express) are a very dangerous team, because they can shoot the lights out of you at any given night," Gregorio said.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola, after coming so close to stopping that Purefoods run at five, tries to get out of the cellar in the 7:20 p.m. contest when it slugs it out with Sta. Lucia.

Meanwhile, the search for the new PBA commissioner is officially on, and teams are now playing their cards close to their chest. A team is allowed to nominate one candidate for the position vacated by Noli Eala.

Team representatives, however, refused to reply to calls regarding the names that they will submit to officer-in-charge Sonny Barrios no later than Nov. 23.

Alaska team owner Wilfred Uytengsu, however, said in a message to the INQUIRER that he is "still reviewing all options."

"I just know we need fresh blood," he added.

Knowledgeable sources said though that the team representatives are bound to select from the names already floated during the search for the OIC position. Of those names, two have been stricken out.

National coach Chot Reyes is no longer in the running, sources said, because of his affiliation with San Miguel Corp. Chino Trinidad, meanwhile, is said to be off the list also because of his PBL commissionership.

The remaining names on the list are: Ex-senator Freddie Webb, PBA operations manager Rickie Santos, businessman Lambert Ramos, former league governor Bert Manlapit, PBA legal counsel Chito Salud, former players Sonny Jaworski and Philip Cezar and former deputy commissioner Tommy Manotoc.

Their being candidates, however, will only become official once a team nominates them.

Musong R. Castillo

What Superman failed to study and master

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

UNTIL THE RAT CREPT IN TO GNAW at his nerves and wreck his composure, youthful star Roberto Gomez was doing it like the true Superman of world pool.

But the moment disaster struck during the crown match for the 2007 World Pool Championship, stunned television analysts could only wince and ask if it was the same wonder worker they had before them.

Gomez, 29, sank from brilliant to bizarre.

The result, of course, was ignominious as Gomez, gleefully taking the whole nation on a voyage toward a world crown, nose-dived, crashed and fell in fragments.

***

Actually, with his smooth, almost flawless game en route to the final, it had appeared that his championship rival from England, Daryl Peach, would need a piece of kryptonite to upset the favored Filipino crown-seeker.

You see, before the title showdown, sportsman Perry Mariano quietly bared the strict, enviable regimen he laid for Gomez for this year's pool championship.

Gomez's chief handler said that, for months on end en route to the World Pool challenge here, his youthful bet would play at least a total of 70 racks a day, seven days a week.

And the daily workout would only be complete after Gomez had taken a full bunch of assorted tests: 50 each of the long shot, jump shot, against-the-rail shot, and the thin-cut shot or the *pina*.

***

Gomez had to qualify through the backdoor.

There were other secret rituals Gomez had to perform before he was finally let loose in a qualifying tournament at the Star Paper pool parlor of RP billiards patron cum laude Sebastian Chua.

Gomez, in short, was perfectly fit for the mission.

From Day 1, Mariano was quietly confident his unheralded charge would go far, maybe all the way to the crown.

***

Well, it's too late now but Gomez has realized that there are other intangibles, not unlike ghosts and phantoms, that can totally wreck the most solid of championship plans.

In local pool parlance, they call this crippling menace the *kaba* or *nerbiyos*, jitters in short.

Like a rat creeping into a player's shoes all the way to his chest, the seat of composure, it builds up into a pressure gigantic enough to cause inner crisis and unsettle even the greatest of pool heroes.

No need to ask who introduced this baffling bug into the game of pool, maybe the biggest rat of them.

***

The truth, as the legendary Efren Bata Reyes will attest, is that the soundless pool rat, *daga* in local pool parlance, can wreck even the sharpest pool sharks in the world.

"*Mahirap kapag inabot* (It's hopeless once you get nervous)," Reyes confided recently after another round of Torres 10 brandy, his new favorite, during a guest stint in Mandaluyong.

The bigger problem added Bata Reyes, is that they still have to invent the surefire antidote to this poisonous feeling that never fails to ruin a pool player's composure.

Ok, they were saying Gomez should do much better next time, now that he had already encountered the dirty pool rat that killed his golden bid at the Araneta Coliseum on Sunday.

Sorry, but that's as shallow as a bogus assurance can be.

***

The experts were right. There's no fool-proof formula to quell the chilling jitters that could strike at the least likely moments in a big pool tournament.

The next best thing his handler can do is let loose Superboy Gomez in man-sized tourneys out there in the American circuit.

It would've indeed helped immeasurably if Gomez had, say, not been denied a visa in his first try to break into the rich US pool market last year.

Meanwhile, Gomez should take pains and live with the unexpected, unscheduled on-game baffler and try not to rattle in his boots during big games.

A timely tip: he should retreat, chalk back, take his time and recompose his nerves, before taking his next shot once the rat starts gnawing.

Funny, but Gomez was seen charging, taking his shots in defiant haste, thereby freezing and banging blind against the demon in his chest during last Sunday's championship.

Bata Reyes has more secret tips.

SPORTSWATCH

RP Int'l Darts Open Friday

THE COUNTRY'S TOP DARTERS DISPUTE World Darts Federation and the Darts Council of the Philippines ranking points plus P105,000 in cash and P60,000 in merchandise in the Philippine International Open slated Nov. 16 to 18 at the SM City Manila.

The "dartstravaganza" begins Friday with the Classified Doubles offering P25,000 to the winners. On Saturday, the Open Doubles will be played with P30,000 cash prize at stake. The Singles will be held Sunday.

'Stagfighter' known today

THE SJC COCKERS CLUB'S STAGFIGHTer of the Year for 2007 will be known today during the Grand Championship 6-Stag Derby which sizzles at the San Juan Coliseum at 1 p.m.

Today's 100-fight program is supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000.

The leaders after five derbies are Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Complexor 3000, 17 points); Roger Segismundo (RS Fairview, 15.5) and Rey Briones (Spartans, 15).

100 fights up in 'Bakbakan'

DUE TO AN ENTRY SPILLOVER IN THE blockbuster NFGB Bakbakan National 10-Stag Derby, an extra semifinal round featuring more than 100 fights will be staged from 2 p.m. today at Pasig Square Garden in Santolan, Pasig City.

National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders president Ricoy Palmares Jr. said participants earning 4 points in the semifinals will enter the championship round. Those who will score a perfect score of six wins will share in the P2 million special prize.

CITY CHESS: National Chess Federation of the Philippines executive director Sammy Estimo (left) receives from Quezon City councilor and majority floor leader Ariel Inton the sponsorship check for the holding of the First QC Inter-Barangay Chess Championship set Dec. 14 to 16 at Amoranto Sports Complex.

'World champion' slowly losing meaning for Italy

By Robert Millward
Associated Press Soccer Writer

LONDON—ITALIAN SOCCER is once more hanging its head in shame. Even last year's World Cup triumph in Germany doesn't seem like much to cheer about.

Nine months after a policeman was killed in rioting at a game in Sicily, a family is mourning the death of Gabriele Sandri, a Lazio fan who was accidentally shot by a police officer who was rushing to the scene of another clash of supporters.

With soccer violence breaking out on a weekly basis, the words "world champion" won't hold any real meaning until Italy takes much stronger measures against hooligans.

"It's just like a civil war here," said Clarence Seedorf, a Dutchman who has played for Sampdoria, Inter Milan and AC Milan. "It's an incredible situation and we're in the middle of it even though we have no responsibility. This is nothing to do with football."

Italian thugs often put on the colors of their local team simply to go out and cause trouble, either with rival fans or with the police. But soccer provides the ideal battleground and can't really escape the blame.

The rioting at the Sicilian town of Catania in February was the outcome of an organized battle between rival gangs connected to the local team and Palermo. Police officer Filippo Raciti was killed as fans clashed with police inside and outside the stadium.

Italian soccer authorities suspended the league for a week and 10 of 21 games were played in empty stadiums.

Although the government introduced new anti-hooliganism measures in April, violence at soccer games has continued.

The death of Sandri, a 26-year-old disc jockey, happened when police intervened to stop a scuffle between Sandri's group of Lazio fans—headed to see their club play at Inter Milan—and some Juventus fans.

Although police called the death a "tragic error," it was the excuse the fans needed to start rioting. At Atalanta's game against AC Milan in Bergamo, fans tried to break through the protective fence behind the goal and get onto the field. The game was abandoned after only seven minutes.

The violence in Italy is reminiscent of the trouble that flared on a regular basis in England in the 1970s and '80s.

That has been almost eradicated, although it took a series of tragic incidents to stop it, including a riot where 39 people died at the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus at Heysel Stadium in Brussels, Belgium.

MARQUEE MATCHUP: Denver superstar Carmelo Anthony tries to barrel his way past Cleveland icon LeBron James. AP

Nuggets ambush Cavs

DENVER—THE DENVER NUGGETS EASED to a 122-100 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday, Allen Iverson leading the way with a season-high 37 points as the hosts stretched their winning streak to three games.

Iverson put the Nuggets (5-3) in command with 18 first-half points, then stretched Denver's lead to 76-49 with 11 more in the first five minutes of the third quarter.

"We jumped on them right from the beginning. We should try to do that every game," Iverson told reporters.

He connected on 14-of-20 field goal attempts to go with eight assists and two steals.

"The basket was like the ocean and I was throwing rocks," Iverson said.

JR Smith was almost as productive, adding 29 points on 10-of-13 shooting from the floor as the Nuggets hit 55 percent of their shots.

Carmelo Anthony added 22 points and nine rebounds to move 6-2 ahead in games won against Cleveland ace LeBron James.

"Any time I can win, that's fun," Anthony said. "Whether it's against him or anybody."

James led Cleveland (4-4) with 27 points, going nine-of-16 from the floor.

The 122 points were the most scored against the Cavaliers in Mike Brown's three seasons as coach.

"Denver did whatever they wanted to defensively and they did whatever they wanted to do offensively," Brown said.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Chris Paul made the tiebreaking layup with 2.6 seconds left and finished with a season-high 27 points, leading the New Orleans Hornets over the New Jersey Nets, 84-82.

GAME TODAY (*Basketball TV*)
10 a.m.—New York vs. Phoenix
(replay at 9 p.m.)

Paul added seven assists and six rebounds in his marquee point guard matchup with Jason Kidd. He had another huge play shortly before his basket, coming up with a steal and finding Morris Peterson, who converted a four-point play to tie it with a minute left.

Tyson Chandler had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Hornets, who won on consecutive nights following their first two losses of the season.

Richard Jefferson scored a season-high 32 points for the Nets. Kidd finished with 14 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

New Jersey played without Vince Carter, who sprained his ankle on Saturday.

Carlos Boozer had 32 points and 10 rebounds to power the Utah Jazz to their fourth straight victory, a 117-93 home win over the Sacramento Kings. *Reuters, AP*

FEDERER AP

Gutsy Gonzalez adds to Federer's late season woes

SHANGHAI, CHINA—TOP-RANKED ROGER Federer is eager to prove he's not slipping after losing consecutive tennis matches for the first time in 4 1/2 years.

Federer lost to No. 7 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, 4-6, 7-6 (1), 7-5, Monday at the Masters Cup to snap his 15-0 record in round-robin play at the season-ending tournament. It also was the defending champion's first loss in 11 meetings against Gonzalez.

In the other Red Group match, No. 5 Andy Roddick survived a second-set lapse to beat No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

The last time Federer lost two matches in a row was in 2003, when he fell in the third round at Hamburg, then in the first round at the French Open. He now will likely have to beat Roddick and Davydenko to reach the semifinals, a challenge he was looking forward to tackling.

"Some players or people might think, 'Now he's more vulnerable,'" Federer said. "I disagree, obviously. I'm going to hopefully show them again this week and then obviously next year again."

Federer waxed hot early and ran off the first three games. It looked like a repeat of the Australian Open final in January, when Federer beat Gonzalez in straight sets.

"I was feeling really bad on the court," Gonzalez said. "But after, he went down a little bit and my level went up. I think the key of the match was my serve and don't be scared to go for my shots." *AP*

Pacquiao-Marquez looking good, says GBP executive

GOLDEN BOY VICE-PRESIDENT AND International matchmaker Eric Gomez, who arrived yesterday to attend the 45th WBC Convention here, has indicated that the ongoing negotiations between Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions for the Pacquiao-Marquez rematch are looking good as both camps try to iron out the details for the planned super bout.

A report at Philboxing.com quoted Gomez as saying that GBP CEO Richard Schaefer and Top Rank President Bob Arum have already made initial talks in New York regarding the possible fight. Both Schaefer and Arum sat at ringside when Miguel Cotto decisioned Shane Mosley in New York.

Gomez arrived yesterday from Los Angeles to join the convention at the Manila Hotel.

There has been a steady calls from fans and the media alike that both Pacquiao and Marquez settle an unfinished business which took place when they figured in a draw during their first encounter in 2004.

Even WBC President Jose Sulaiman, in his speech at the formal opening of the WBC Convention last Monday, exhorted Pacquiao to fight for a belt against Marquez, noting that when he is remembered in history books, he will be remembered for his titles.

Pacquiao and his team, led by adviser Rex "Wakee" Salud, had earlier indicated that Pacquiao would fight Marquez "for a price that will make Pacquiao happy."

Salud said that Pacquiao would take the fight if he was guaranteed $5 million as prize money. The Filipino icon reportedly took $2 million in his last fight against Marco Antonio Barrera. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

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8: Placing Your Service Product Where and When Customers Want It
9: Advertising and Customer Education
10: Pushing Your Service Product via Sales Promotion
11: Developing Your Total Service Program or Its Marketing Mix
12: Integration into Database Marketing

ABOUT NED ROBERTO Ph.D.
A much sought-after international marketing speaker, consultant and author, NED ROBERTO, Ph.D. has been conducting the Marketing Research seminar since1981. He has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe and Asia. He is the author (together with Philip Kotler) of *Social Marketing* and the bestselling *User-Friendly Marketing Research.*

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Gaddi, Benitez lead Jet racers

THE JET RACING Team bagged two titles and finished third in another event in the Thailand Grand Prix 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship held recently at the Saraburi Circuit.

Team captain Javi Benitez topped the Formula 125 Juniors Open while Christian Gaddi bagged the Cadet Novice crown.

Benitez survived the tough challenge posed by undefeated Thai champion Nanin Indra-Payoung in winning the Formula 125 Juniors Open.

He wrapped up the 18-lap final race in 17 minutes and 32.450.

Gaddi, an eight-year-old student of Claret School, clocked 16 minutes and 48.718 seconds to rule the Cadet 60 race.

MEMBERS of the Jet Racing Team and of the RP karting squad whoop it up after another dominating performance in the Thailand Grand Prix 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship. Vencer Suba, Christian Gaddi, Javi Benitez and Franco Reyes are the Jet stalwarts while RP karters are Jette Calderon, Mike Casimiro and Stefano Marcelo.

Thai runner-up Tanatcha Chinisiri was a far 25.220 seconds behind while Wachelapong Klankesorn wound up third.

Franco Reyes bagged third place in the Mini-ROK division. Reyes finished just 0.067 seconds behind runner-up Chang Wing Chung who pulled off a big dive just before the finish line.

SPORTS

Lady Stags score, tie UST tossers for lead

nBy Romina Austria

SAN SEBASTIAN pounded Letran, 25-17, 25-10, 25-11, yesterday to gain a share of the lead at the close of the elimination phase of the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Stags tied idle University of Santo Tomas Tigresses at 6-1, going into the carryover semifinal round which begins Friday.

Letran wound up winless and finished eighth and last for the second straight conference.

In the opening match, Adamson drew big games from guest player Neriza Bautista and Angela Benting as it battled back from a set down to outlast defending champion La Salle, 19-25, 25-16, 25-23, 25-18.

Bautista challenged La Salle's defense with 23 kills, while Benting added 16 attacks to hand the Lady Falcons a fourth-best 4-3 card.

The Lady Archers ended up fifth at 3-4. They must win three of their four semifinal matches to earn the right to challenge the No. 2 team for the second finals slot.

The La Salle tossers blocked 11 enemy tries but couldn't neutralize Bautista and Benting.

Rissa Jane Laguilles contributed 13 points for Adamson, which tackles UST at 5 p.m. on Friday.

San Sebastian, runner-up in the last two conferences, takes on Ateneo (5-2) at 3 p.m.

STANDINGS	W	L
*UST	6	1
*SSC	6	1
*Ateneo	5	2
*Adamson	4	3
*La Salle	3	4
FEU	2	5
Lyceum	2	5
Letran	0	7

*In semis

GAMES FRIDAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
3 p.m.—SSC vs Ateneo
5 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs Adamson

Davao XI stuns Negros; MisOr batters nail gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DAVAO, ILOILO AND MASBATE DREW first blood in football with victories over their respective rivals while Misamis Oriental's baseball team snared the first gold medal in the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival yesterday.

Davao scored a 3-0 shutout of a Negros Occidental 15-and-under side which arrived early yesterday morning after a 20-hour boat trip from Bacolod City.

The heavily favored Negros booters still have a chance to regroup in the tournament being played at the PhilSports field in Pasig.

Iloilo blasted Muntinlupa, 1-0, and Masbate routed Bukidnon, 3-1, in the other matches.

Over at the Rizal Memorial ballpark, the Misamis Oriental clouters secured the Games' first gold by default as the rest of the field failed to make it to the competition.

RAFFY LERMA

TAGUIG'S Homel Cunanan ponders his move against national active chess champ Lennon Salgados whom he stunned in 41 moves.

Philippine Olympic Committee and POF chair Robert Aventajado said the competitions have also lured eagle-eyed national coaches.

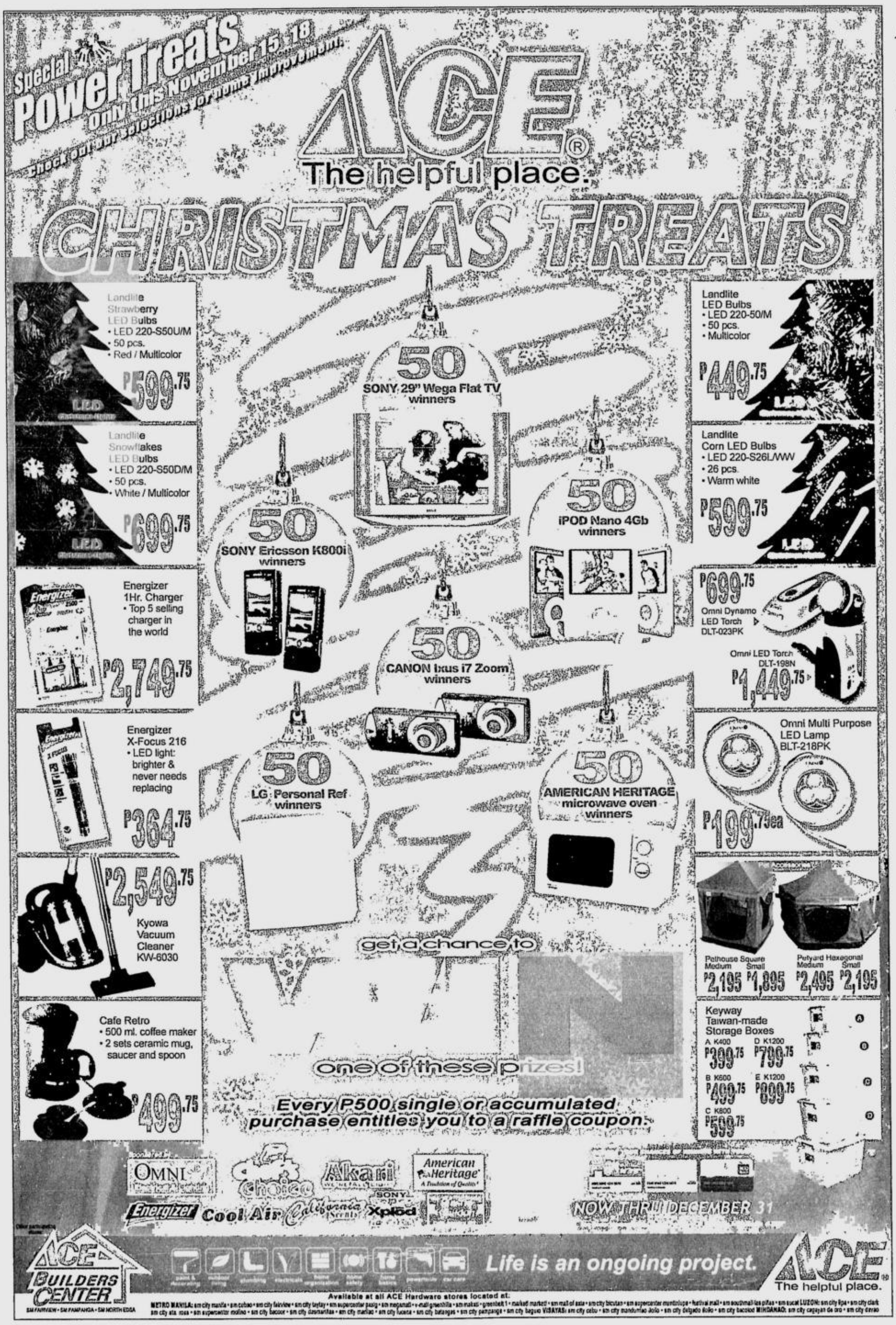
"Many of our national coaches are already asking who to watch in the games," said Aventajado. "I told them there are many talents here waiting to be discovered."

Action goes into high gear today with four gold medals at stake in chess at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and two more to be disputed in basketball at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Athletics gets going at the Rizal Memorial track stadium.

With about 200 athletes, Central-Northern Luzon overall champion Baguio City looms as the favorite to top the overall race.

Table tennis also kicks off today while medal-rich aquatics begin Thursday along with archery, judo, wrestling and muay thai. Gymnastics and taekwondo start on Saturday.



Alcano & Co. overpowers World Team

CALAPAN CITY—TEAM PHILIPPINES WALloped the World Team, 31-19, yesterday to win the Kabayan San Miguel Beer World 9-Ball Challenge at the Filipiniana Hotel here.

The team made up of 2006 World Pool champion Ronato Alcano, Marlon Manalo, Gandy Valle, Jeffrey dé Luna and Antonio Gabica pocketed $20,000 in the dual meet that coincided with Oriental Mindoro's 57th founding anniversary.

The World Team of Rodney Morris of the United States, Marcus Chamat of Sweden and England's Karl Boyes, Darren Appleton and Scott Higgins received $10,000.

Morris and company opened up with a 5-1 lead in the early session on Monday before settling for a 19-17 advantage.

The Filipinos bounced back yesterday when Valle and Manalo trounced Chamat, 7-3, and Higgins, 8-2, respectively.

Alcano secured the title when he dominated Boyes, 9-1, in the last match.

"I made sure I had a good start," said Valle in Filipino.

"We all helped one another to win this for the country," added Manalo, who is set to see action in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games next month.

Meantime, the seeded Alcano spearheads the Filipinos' bid in today's kickoff of the Negros Oriental International 9-Ball Championships at the Dumaguete Convention Center.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

La Salle stude posts lone RP swim victory

By Beth Celis

TAIPEI—TANA VERZO, AN EIGHT-YEAR-old second-grader from De La Salle Zobel, ruled the 50-meter breaststroke for the Philippines' lone gold in the five-nation CITI Invitational Swim Meet 2007 at the Taipei American School here.

Tana competed in the two-day invitational meet along with 12 other young Filipino swimmers from the Fighting Orcas Swim Club coached by Susan Papa.

Tana also won a pair of silver medals in the 50m butterfly and 100m breaststroke, three bronzes in the 200m individual medley and the 200m and 400m freestyle.

The Fighting Orcas from Alabang, Muntinlupa, collected one gold, five silver and nine bronze medals.

"I am proud of my swimmers," said Papa, the former age-group internationalist. "Their performance was way beyond my expectations."

A total of 250 swimmers from 13 clubs in Taiwan, Beijing, Shanghai, Thailand, United States and the Philippines saw action in the annual invitationals.

Other Orca medalists: Josef Dos Remedios, three silvers; Lana Bosch, two bronzes; Vincent Alvarez, one bronze; Nicole Alvarez, Jaime Tiongson, Ernestine Tiongson, and Tana Verzo, bronze medalists in girls' relay; Hilario Davide IV, Rafael Santiago, Vincent Alvarez and Hans Ramos, bronze medalist in boys' relay.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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First Gen to join Pagbilao project /B4

From oil to biomass: RP turns to cleaner power /B5

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BOP surplus seen topping $7-B mark

Boost from OFW remittances, foreign investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS SURPLUS LIKELY breached the $7-billion mark as of end-October given the favorable foreign investment climate and stronger overseas Filipino remittances, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas estimated.

From January to September this year, the BOP surplus amounted to $6.7 billion, already exceeding the central bank's full-year target of $6.3 billion.

But BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo yesterday said the central bank was still reviewing its external payments forecasts for this year and next in time for the forthcoming annual review with the International Monetary Fund.

The BSP is set to release the actual BOP report for October later this week.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world. Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP while any which gives rise to a receipt like borrowing, exporting or overseas Filipino worker remittance is a surplus item.

The strong BOP position since the start of the year had fueled the peso's appreciation by more than 14 percent since the start of the year, making the local currency the best performing in developing Asia.

Robust OFW remittances and foreign investments are driving up the country's foreign reserves and external payments account to record surpluses this year.

Based on the latest data from the BSP, money sent home by overseas Filipinos through the banking system surged by 10.6 percent in August from a year ago to $1.2 billion despite the downtrend in the offshore deployment of new workers.

The year-on-year growth in August was faster than the 4.64-percent annual expansion in July and brought total inflows for the eight-month period to $9.3 billion, 15.3-percent better than the remittances in the same period a year ago.

The US Federal Reserve's recent interest rate

BOP SURPLUS/ B3

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Labor Force Participation at 63.6 percent (July 2004-2007 Labor Force Survey)

Of the estimated 56.9 million people aged 15 and over in July 2007, around 36.2 million (63.6 percent) were in the labor force - the lowest labor force participation rate in four years.

Source: National Statistics Office
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

Gov't debt rose 2.8% to ₱3.87T in end-August

By Michelle V. Remo

THE OUTSTANDING DEBT OF THE National government stood at P3.87 trillion as of end-August, up by 2.8 percent from the previous month's P3.77 trillion, the Bureau of the Treasury reported yesterday.

If divided among the country's estimated population of 88.7 million Filipinos this year, then each would have a share of P43,641 in the government's debt burden.

Documents from the Treasury showed that the outstanding debt as of August was made up of P2.17 trillion worth of liabilities to local creditors and P1.704 trillion in obligations to foreign lenders.

Officials said the government has adopted the policy of depending more on domestic than foreign borrowings to minimize risks from too much exposure to foreign exchange volatility.

The amount of outstanding domestic debt was 2.5-percent higher than the previous month's P2.12 trillion. The foreign liabilities were up by 3.3 percent from the P1.65 trillion recorded in July.

The Treasury said in a statement that the increase in the government's debt stock in August was partly attributed to the increase in the issuance of government securities to the domestic market. The government booked in August a total of P77.6 billion in retail treasury bonds.

The government originally targeted to sell only P8 billion in RTBs, but the government said it was forced to sell much more following requests from the market for more instruments that will cater to small investors.

The Treasury also said the month-on-month depreciation of the peso also led to the increase in the government's debt stock. Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the peso averaged at 46.074 against the dollar in August, weaker than the 45.625 in July.

A depreciation of the peso results in an increase in the government's debts, in local currency terms, that are denominated in foreign currencies.

The government paid P5 billion worth of debts in August, tempering the increase in the outstanding debt, the Treasury said.

It also reported that the government's contingent debt stood at P537.2 billion as of August. Contingent liabilities are debts of government-owned and -controlled corporations or government financial institutions that carry sovereign guarantee. Once the state-owned firms default on the payment of these loans, the liabilities become part of the national government's debt.

Of the contingent liabilities, P65 billion are domestic borrowings and P472.2 billion are denominated in foreign currencies.

PAL adds flights in time for Christmas rush

By Riza T. Olchondra

ANTICIPATING THE SURGE IN AIR travel for the Christmas travel season, flag carrier Philippine Airlines is increasing capacity to the US West Coast, Australia, Bangkok and Singapore.

PAL said that starting Nov. 25, it will add two flights a week between Manila and Los Angeles. An extra weekly flight between Manila and San Francisco will be operated starting on the same date.

This will raise total frequency on the West Coast routes to 20 flights a week from 17—with 11 flights between Manila and Los Angeles and nine between Manila and San Francisco.

Two additional weekly flights will connect Manila with Melbourne and Sydney starting Nov. 26, raising total frequency to Australia to five times a week.

Meanwhile, PAL's services to Bangkok and Singapore will get the biggest boost with the planned de-

PAL/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 42.98 = $1

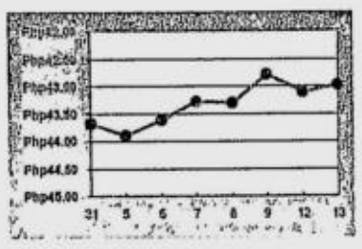
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 13, 2007

¥ 110.03 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 13, 2007

GOLD: $816.70-817.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 12, 2007



OCTOBER NOVEMBER

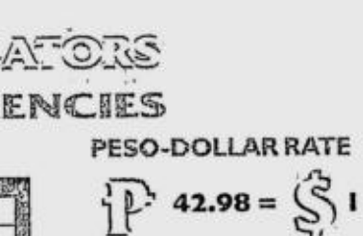
STOCK MARKET

Stocks down on lingering US credit crisis

SHARE PRICES closed 0.5-percent lower yesterday as expectations of further fallout from the ongoing credit crisis in the US continued to unsettle global investors, dealers said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER NOVEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

They said the market regained some ground as bargain-hunters emerged and picked up blue chip PLDT in the final hour of trade.

The composite index closed 85.29 points down at 3,618.37 off a low of 3,539.44.

There were 58 decliners and 41 advancers, while 51 stocks were steady.

Volume amounted to 2.8 billion shares worth P5.6 billion.

PLDT, the country's biggest company by market value, rose P45 to P3,005 after hitting a six-week low of P2,925 in early trade.

"There's nothing fundamentally wrong with our economy so any downturn should be viewed as a fresh opportunity to get back into the market," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

But a convincing recovery would depend largely on Wall Street's performance, he said.

On Tuesday, the Dow Jones industrial average ended below 13,000 for the first time since August.

"We're still prone to big and sudden drops at this point. But sentiment may improve if the Dow rises back above 13,000," Macapagal said. *AFP*

7-year T-bond rate stays at 6.5%

THE YIELD OF THE 7-year treasury bonds remained at 6.5 percent during yesterday's auction as the government partially rejected bids for the long-term securities.

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P7 billion worth of bids, its scheduled borrowing program for yesterday, the rate for the seven-year bonds would have risen slightly to 6.508 percent.

There were P11.73 billion worth of tenders but the Treasury accepted only P5.7 billion to keep the rate steady.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who is also acting national treasurer, told reporters that some of the bids were not competitive. Banks seemed to be staying in the sidelines, waiting for the results of the Monetary Board meeting this week.

Michelle V. Remo

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Ayala posts 41.6% jump in 9-month net profit

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA CORP. announced that its net income from January to September surged 41.6 percent to a record P13.6 billion from P9.6 billion in the same period last year, surpassing the full year 2006 net income of P12.2 billion.

In a statement sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala president and chief operating officer Fernando Zobel de Ayala attributed the strong performance to the company's efforts to continually lower operating and financing costs, extract values from its existing portfolio and consistently manage its businesses to maximize opportunities presented by an improving economic environment.

Revenues during the nine-month period grew 10.7 percent to P58.02 billion from P52.42 billion, the company reported in its unaudited consolidated financial statement sent to the PSE.

Costs and expenses grew slightly to P40.88 billion from P39.58 billion in the same period last year. Interest and other charges, however, fell to P3.25 billion from P3.96 billion.

Ayala said in its statement that net income was also boosted by some P7 billion in gains from share sales in the first half of the year, while the strong earnings performance of its business units kept equity earnings stable at P9 billion.

Ayala Land Inc. reported a net income growth of 15 percent in the first nine months of the year to P3.1 billion.

Bank of the Philippine Islands registered a net income of P7.6 billion, 11 percent higher than a year ago.

Globe Telecom posted a net income of P9.7 billion, up 4 percent year-on-year.

Integrated Microelectronics Inc., however, registered a 27-percent decline in net income to $21 million during the period.

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- CEO dialogue and networking opportunity between the mining and construction industry

SHOW HOURS:
November 15 - 17	November 18
10:30 a.m. - 7:00p.m.	10:30 a.m. - 5:00p.m.

LIST OF SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS
November 15, Thursday
Seminar Rm 1 (1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.)
1. Current Status of Mining and Mineral Exploration Activities in the Philippines by Glenn Noble, Division Chief, Mineral Economic & Information Division
2. Social Responsibility in Mining by Dir. FS Mon Monteros, Professor of Social Philosophy, Bukidnon State University
3. Aggregates Mining and Development by Romeo B. Molano, General Manager, Vulcan Materials Corp.
4. Uranium Potential of the Philippines by Aloysius Diaz, EVP / COO Trans Asia Minerals Corp.
5. Presentation on New Mining Operating Equipment by Mattross Vass SouthEast Asia, Pete Trading
Seminar Rm 2
Presentation by SANDVIK TAMROCK
November 16, Friday
Seminar Rm 2
1:00 - 1:45p.m. Redefining CAD with Functional Design: From 2D to 3D by CIM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
2:00 - 2:45p.m. SHIMADZU: Mineral Assaying Seminar Using AAS/ICPS/XRF by SHIMADZU PHILS. CORP.
3:00 - 3:45p.m. How to Choose a Good Quality Tile by MARIWASA SIAM CERAMICS, INC.
4:00 - 4:45p.m. Acoustics by EAGLE SHIELD ENTERPRISES
November 17, Saturday
Seminar Rm 2
11:00 - 11:45a.m. Aeroquip Hoses by MESCO, INC.
1:00 - 1:45p.m. Product Presentation of Destiny Products & Features by PARADISE CHEMICAL CORP.
2:00 - 2:45p.m. Intercom Systems & Fingerprint Security Systems by AVESCO MARKETING CORP.
3:00 - 3:45p.m. How To Make Concrete Stamping System by GT STONE WORKS
4:00 - 5:45p.m. Presentation by FW NICOL
November 18, Sunday
Seminar Rm 2
11:00 - 11:45a.m. Presentation by INFRATEX / PGI
1:00 - 1:45p.m. Intercom Systems & Fingerprint Security Systems by AVESCO MARKETING CORP.
2:00 - 2:45p.m. Presentation by CIGI
3:00 - 3:45p.m. Presentation by STONE AGE
4:00 - 4:45p.m. Presentation by ALUFORM
All Schedules are Subject to Change Without Prior Notice

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○ Exploration Equipment
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 13, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	18,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	55.5	56	55	56	2,230,200
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	64.5	65	61	64.5	3,680,300
748	540	China Banking Corp.	680	695	680	690	2,360
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.39	0.42	0.39	0.4	2,550,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	55.5	58	55.5	57	1,234,700
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	44	45	43.5	45	336,300
39.57	18.7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	25	25	24.25	24.5	5,544,100
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	73	73	73	73	1,600
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	45.5	45.5	42	43.5	805,600
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	100,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	2,063,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.5	12.5	12	12.5	1,686,200
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	41	41	40	41	2,300
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5	5.1	4.9	5.1	3,997,000
5	2.85	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	2.95	3	2.85	2.95	9,369,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,090.00	1,150.00	1,080.00	1,150.00	1,320
1.94	1.3	Wantage Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	710,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	19,742,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	70,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60.5	59	60.5	754,100
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76	77	76	76.5	2,068,500
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	17	17	16.5	16.75	17,991,000
105.45	25.45	Manila Electric Company	76	77	75	76.5	1,725,900
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	17,855,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.2	6.2	5.8	6	12,000,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7	7	6.9	7	102,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.58	1.66	4,386,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.95	5.2	4.95	5.2	40,000
2.75	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.82	1.86	1.76	1.86	368,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	1,900
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	46	46.5	44.5	46	1,838,500
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	90,000
3.6	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.6	2.75	2.55	2.6	204,000
80	52.5	San Miguel Corp. A	53	53.5	53	53.5	57,900
88	53	San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	54	53.5	54	187,700
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	120,000
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14	14	14	14	1,523,200
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.35	0.24	0.35	200,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	4.85	5	4.75	5	2,294,000
21.5	6	Federal Res. Investment Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	825,000
7	2.95	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	250,000
2	0.58	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.04	7,598,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.35	4.4	4.25	4.35	1,281,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Philcomp Resources Inc.	0.37	0.4	0.35	0.39	12,520,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3,575,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.13	0.145	143,100,000
1.28	0.24	APC Group Inc.	0.62	0.67	0.62	0.65	6,960,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.5	2.75	2.5	2.7	581,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.5	3	2.5	3	26,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	1,267,000
0.021	0.0085	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	9,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	14,314,000
1.38	0.55	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	460,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.32	2.4	2.3	2.36	3,846,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	4	4	4	4	15,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	575	575	560	570	573,950
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	2,200
5.8	1.56	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.95	4.1	3.95	4	5,267,000
12	4.75	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.25	10.25	9.9	10.25	1,017,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	10,000
2.5	0.8	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	40,000
8	2.85	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.6	270,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11	10.75	11	930,900
2.65	1.42	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
0.8	0.225	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	30,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.1	5.5	2,764,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	45,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. A	0.195	0.205	0.18	0.205	131,840,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	4,230,000
2.1	1.3	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.7	1.64	1.7	46,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	350	355	350	355	907,930
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	7,000
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.35	10,220,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	121,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.31	16,100,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	12,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.5	42,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16	16	15.75	16	15,494,400
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.28	1,792,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
2.06	1.7	Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp. B	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	2,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,060,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.38	6,550,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	11,270,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.24	0.26	1,230,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.94	0.99	0.92	0.98	2,700,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.54	1.58	28,592,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.75	3.8	67,082,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	10,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	103,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.31	0.33	0.3	0.33	1,310,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	19	19	18.25	18.5	3,691,700
5.9	1.88	SM Development Corp.	3.7	4.2	3.7	4.05	151,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	10.5	10.75	10	10.5	9,914,100
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.2	2.38	2.18	2.36	876,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.58	1,730,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,210,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5	5.1	4.85	5.1	10,104,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	33.5	32	33.5	142,100
12	7.9	GMA Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.3	1,053,000
11.75	7.9	GMA Network Inc.	8.1	8.1	7.9	8.1	1,151,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.32	1.34	256,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,675.00	1,675.00	1,630.00	1,640.00	125,040
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,945.00	3,005.00	2,925.00	3,005.00	161,120
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.1	7.2	6.7	7.2	2,968,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	2,020,000
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.3	10.25	9.3	9.8	218,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.04	0.038	0.039	67,900,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. A	15	15	15	15	5,000
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	22,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.17	0.18	0.17	0.18	5,330,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.36	1.26	1.36	330,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.049	0.0525	46,800,000
5.8	1.5	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.55	2.85	1,955,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	4	4	4	4	29,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	39	38.5	39	3,463,600
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	79,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	9	9	9	9	122,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	132,000
1.04	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.8	1.04	0.8	1.04	53,820,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	2,431,730
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	4.95	5	4.9	4.95	97,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11	11.5	11	11.5	207,000
30	8.5	Paxys Inc.	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.6	3,696,200
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	84,100,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	6	6.2	5.7	6	2,334,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	320,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.5	14.5	14	14.25	2,537,500
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	3,000
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10	10.5	9.7	10.25	1,041,500
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.04	2.08	1.88	2	100,791,000
0.47	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.38	0.42	0.36	0.41	198,100,000
0.5	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.4	0.47	0.39	0.46	70,850,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.027	0.025	0.027	213,800,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	103,900,000
30	2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.5	21.5	19.75	21	5,287,200
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	571,700,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	24,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10	10	9.5	9.6	37,398,100
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	44.5	44.5	41.5	42	361,800
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	775,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,090,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	156,400,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	52,900,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	9.8	10	137,600
0.032	0.009	The Philodrill Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.027	273,400,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	905.98	DOWN 3.15	34,332,280	691,635,390.00
Industrial	4,327.81	DOWN 27.83	145,367,700	1,371,640,230.00
Holding Firms	2,056.60	DOWN 27.54	359,985,980	869,450,300.00
Property	1,589.56	DOWN 25.81	166,124,200	794,463,815.00
Service	1,811.04	UP 14.55	196,466,860	983,169,630.00
Mining & Oil	8,090.41	DOWN 357.63	1,877,226,700	892,679,535.00
All Shares Index	2,220.19	DOWN 13.29		
PSEI	3,599.49	DOWN 18.88		
		GRAND TOTALS	2,779,503,720	5,603,038,900.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH
SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Glorietta incident won't cripple ALI

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. does not expect the considerable damage to a section of the Glorietta mall in Makati City to have a significant impact on its future earnings.

ALI chief finance officer Jaime Ysmael said in a chance interview yesterday that even if Glorietta 2, the damaged portion of the Glorietta mall, will be "out of commission" or closed for the whole of 2008, the impact on consolidated revenues this year would just be 0.5 percent and on net income, a mere 1.5 percent.

Ysmael made the projection as ALI reported a 15-percent increase in its consolidated net income in the first nine months to P3.12 billion from P2.72 billion in the same period last year.

"Since we are growing our business, the percentage would go down even further. So in terms of Glorietta 2, in terms of revenues, it's just small (the impact). The rest of the malls' operations are going back to normal. Based on last weekend, we are close to the previous (foot) traffic (at the Glorietta mall)," Ysmael said.

Glorietta 2 represents 12,000 square meters in gross leasable area or 4.3 percent of the Glorietta mall's total leasable space of 280,000 sq. m.

BOP ...

From page B1

cuts have also revived global investors' appetite for assets from emerging markets like the Philippines.

The monetary easing by the US central bank was meant to avert an economic recession that may be caused by rising delinquencies in the American subprime mortgage credit or housing loans given to borrowers with blemished credit history and little equity.

Aside from the BOP and its components, the BSP is likewise reviewing its forecasts on the gross international reserves for this year and 2008.

The Philippines' foreign exchange reserves surged to an all-time high of $32.4 billion in end-October from $30.9 billion in end-September as the BSP bought more dollars to slow down the peso's appreciation.

PAL ...

From page B1

ployment of three more flights a week for each route starting Nov. 30. With the new frequencies, PAL's service to Bangkok increases to 10 times a week, while the service to Singapore will have a total of 17 flights weekly.

On the domestic front, the daily Butuan service will be augmented starting Nov. 20 by an earlier flight every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, raising total frequency from seven to 10 times a week.

PAL's services to Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro will increase by two flights a week as well, raising total frequency for each route to 27 times weekly.

Frequencies to Legazpi and Puerto Princesa will increase from seven to 10 flights weekly while Davao and Tacloban receive eight and seven more weekly flights, respectively.

Meanwhile, PAL has reminded the riding public to check in as early as two hours before their scheduled flight time in view of the anticipated congestion at the airport during this busy travel season.

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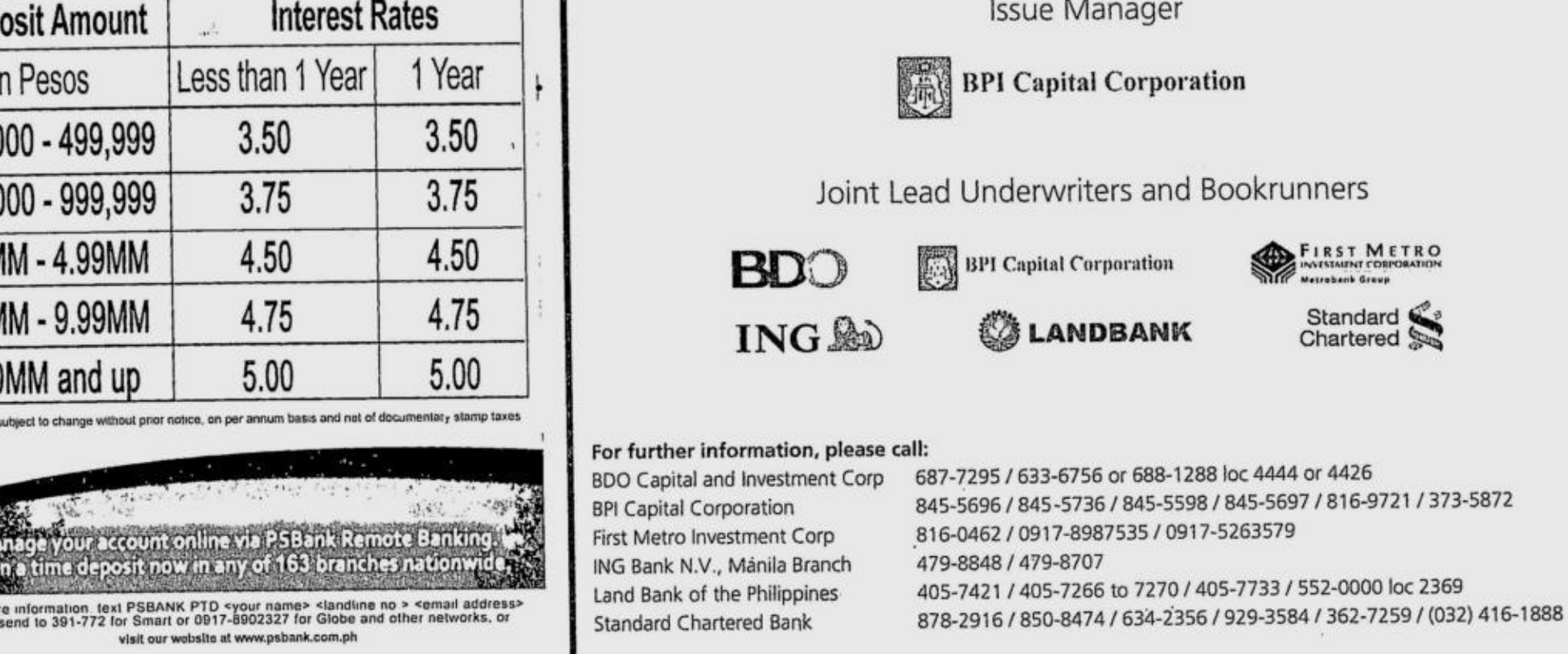

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First Gen to join Pagbilao project

Lopez company partners with Tepco, Marubeni

By Abigail L. Ho

TEAM ENERGY CORP., THE consortium of Tokyo Electric Power Co. and Marubeni Corp., has partnered with the Lopez-owned First Gen Corp. for the expansion of the 735-megawatt (MW) Pagbilao coal-fired power facility in Quezon by another 385-400 MW.

First Gen senior vice president Ricardo Tantoco said an agreement for the partnership was already in place, but the parties have yet to thresh out the details of the venture.

"The actual agreement with Team Energy is already in place, but we still have to firm up the sharing scheme and the timetable. Everybody's rushing for 2011 because that's the critical period in Luzon. Right now, it's easier to expand than to pursue a greenfield project," he said.

The estimated project cost has been placed at around $578 million, he said, but this could still go down, considering that there were existing facilities in the Pagbilao plant complex that could be used for the expansion unit.

In an earlier interview, TeaM Energy president and chief executive Federico Puno said Pagbilao's expansion unit should be commissioned by 2010 or 2011, just in time to address the projected supply shortfall in the Luzon grid.

Before actually starting construction, he said TeaM Energy should be able to secure an agreement with the National Power Corp. and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. with regard to the lease of the land and the use of common facilities.

Also, the scope of the existing environmental compliance certificate for the Pagbilao plant should be expanded and the endorsement of the local government unit secured, he added.

Apart from the Pagbilao expansion, First Gen chair and chief executive Peter Garrucho said the company was also looking at putting up the 500-MW San Gabriel gas-fired power facility, in partnership with BG, formerly British Gas.

"The key to the San Gabriel project is the gas supply. If we have the gas supply, I think we can proceed. We've been trying to discuss with the gas seller, but there's still no word from them," he said.

The Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project currently supplies natural gas to three gas-fired power plants, two of which belong to the Lopezes: the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita, the 500-MW San Lorenzo and the 1,200-MW Ilijan plants.

At present, the Malampaya project can provide enough natural gas to produce 3,000 MW of power.

With the three gas-fired power plants using only 2,700 MW of the project's 3,000-MW production potential, 300 MW could still be allocated for other users.

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DISCOM 08 November 2007

NOTICE TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND DISPOSAL COMMITTEE invites interested parties and/or Junk Shop Owners to apply for Auction for four (4) lots consisting of ten (10) unserviceable vehicles and assorted scrap items stockpiled at Hqs 525TH EBn (S), PA located at Adventure Zone, Taguig City and at Army Support Command, Ft. Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

A Pre-Auction conference will be on *14 November 2007* at 2:00 PM at Army Support Command (ASCOM) Conference Room. Auction Proper will also be on *17 November 2007* at 2:00 PA Army Support Command, (ASCOM), Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures.

Eligible bidders must submit their Bids at Headquarters ARMY SUPPORT Command, Ft. Bonifacio, Metro Manila on or before the scheduled opening of Bids. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who chose to attend.

Minimum Documents required:

1. Business permit
2. Valid and current Mayor's Permit
3. DTI permit
4. BIR Tax Clearance
5. TIN

The Army Support Command, PA has the right to accept or reject any Bid, to cancel the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder(s).

FOR PARTICULARS PLS CONTACT THE SECRETARIAT, DISPOSAL COMMITTEE, ASCOM, PA AT TEL #845-9555 LOCAL 4445 and/or 4452.

RODOLFO L VERGARA
Lt. Colonel (OS) PA
Chairman
(PDI–Nov. 14 & 17, 2007)

CURRENCIES

November 13, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.687900	1.000000	43.0600
Japan	Yen	0.006278	0.009127	0.3930
United Kingdom	Pound	1.413565	2.054900	88.4840
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.088275	0.128325	5.5257
Switzerland	Franc	0.609516	0.886054	38.1535
Canada	Dollar	0.710714	1.033165	44.4881
Singapore	Dollar	0.473076	0.687711	29.6128
Australia	Dollar	0.605492	0.880204	37.9016
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.827528	2.656678	114.3966
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.183931	0.267380	11.5134
Brunei	Dollar	0.471455	0.685354	29.5113
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.000075	0.000109	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.021769	0.031646	1.3627
UAE	Dirham	0.187387	0.272405	11.7298
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.453700	62.5963
Korea	Won	0.000755	0.001098	0.0473
China	Yuan**	0.092805	0.134911	5.8093
Denmark	Kroner	0.134201	0.195088	8.4005
India	Rupee	0.017535	0.025491	1.0976
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206267	0.299850	12.9115
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514548	0.747999	32.2088
Sweden	Kroner	0.107796	0.156703	6.7476
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021310	0.030978	1.3339

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 12, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 2, 2007

Liability insurance

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE GLORIETTA INCIDENT HAS spawned a lively discussion, even among insurance professionals, over the kind of liability insurance policy that must have been in force at the time of the incident.

The most well-known third party liability policy is the Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) that the law requires of motor vehicle owners. But, there is a raft of lesser-known policies that covers almost any risk known to man. The latest insures environmental risks.

The Americans being a highly litigious race, third party liability insurance is one of the largest lines in the United States, and for that matter, Canada. But, here, third party liability, outside of the CTPL is a minor line.

For commercial establishments, the most common insurance policy here is the Comprehensive General Liability (CGL). Basically, the policy indemnifies the insured of all sums he may be held legally liable to pay for (a) bodily injury to third parties, and/or (b) damage to property owned by third parties.

Please notice the term "legally liable". In the Philippines, one can be held legally liable if he is grossly negligent.

For example, if a customer trips on a loose board in the staircase and, as a result, breaks a leg, the restaurant owner is clearly liable. But, if the restaurant owner can prove that he had done everything expected of a good father to prevent an accident, he is free of any liability.

Then there is contributory negligence of the third party. For instance, if the lady customer tripped because of a loose heel in her shoe, the liability of the restaurant owner would be less harsh.

In the US and Canada, the rule is far different. There is no need to prove negligence. All you have to prove is that somebody hurt you. For instance, if a customer at a bar gets drunk and meets with an accident while driving home, the bar owner is liable for allowing the customer to drive while soused.

The CGL also pays for the cost of a suit against the insured. It is no small comfort to the insured to know that he has an insurance company to back him up in case of a suit from a customer.

It is common for a lease contract to contain a "hold harmless clause." The building owner and the tenant agree that the former is not liable—held harmless—for any accident that may happen in the rented premises. Every lease contract I have signed as a tenant in Makati over the last 40 years has this clause.

It would be interesting to find out the wordings of the "hold harmless clause" in the contract between the restaurant and the Ayala owners.

If the restaurant does not carry a CGL policy, or, even if it does, but the policy limits are not high enough, Ayala could be held secondarily liable. Ayala's policy will then respond, if properly written, as I assume it is.

I am assuming, of course, that the restaurant was grossly negligent and, is, therefore, legally liable.

For a restaurant, the CGL policy should also insure against "products liability"—in effect, against food poisoning.

I hear some city councils are toying with the idea of requiring commercial establishments in shopping malls to put up CGL policies as a prerequisite to a mayor's permit. Our well-meaning politicians should go slowly on this idea. This idea usually leads to high premiums from insurance companies duly "accredited" by the city council. Graft and corruption will then reek to high heaven.

Governments urged to strengthen IP rights systems

By Ronnel W. Domingo

IN A LITTLE OVER A DECADE, Intellectual property rights as a tool may come to dominate big businesses, in terms of technological dominance, and even hold sway over geopolitical concerns.

According to Manuel Desantes, vice president of the European Patent Office, intellectual property by 2025 could be a defining factor in global events.

Desantes yesterday addressed the delegates to the Fourth Heads of Intellectual Property Offices Conference held at The Peninsula Manila Hotel in Makati City.

The two-day conference that began yesterday brought together officials representing Australia, Cambodia, China, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Denmark, the United States and the Philippines.

During the forum, the officials were urged to strengthen the intellectual property rights systems in their respective countries.

The forum builds on the previous conference held last year in Singapore, where officials sought to address the growing workload of IP agencies as well as the need for them to modernize.

To reduce the backlog on patent applications, Desantes suggested that countries should take a different tack and set up IP offices in their respective regions.

"These may not be physical offices but virtual ones," he said. "IP Philippines has been doing a good job in paring down backlogs as well as fighting piracy, and it is a good model for a regional office in this part of the world."

For his part, IP Philippines Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the common objective among attendees in the forum was to restore the balance in the IP system to ensure that it promoted innovation.

The aim was to make the IP system relevant to peoples and spur socioeconomic development, Cristobal said.

"More than ever, the IP system's immense impact on society is being felt in communities around the world," he said. "Issues like access to affordable medicines ... or the level of protection of IP owners vis-à-vis the public's interest, are among concerns being debated."

Chicken falls prey to 'palengke' mechanics

By Amy R. Remo

CONSUMERS MAY EXPECT AN ample supply of chicken for the holidays, but the local broiler industry has said that it cannot control unwarranted price increases in the wet and retail markets.

In a press briefing, United Broilers' Raisers Association chair Gregorio San Diego said that, since production is expected to be flat this year, the government last October had decided to import some three million kilos of chicken to ensure that there would be no shortage of supply this December.

"Even with this ample supply ... wet market prices have increased," San Diego lamented.

He explained that, because consumer demand has gone down, retailers and wet market sellers have been forced to jack up prices of poultry products to recover their losses.

Prices of chicken have been monitored at P125 a kilo, he added.

"This is too high," San Diego said. "Even with lower farmgate prices, the prices of chicken at retail markets always increase during this time of the year. It's *palengke* mechanics already."

According to San Diego, this is where government intervention should come in to curb rising prices at the retail level.

"We can't control the price increases," he said, speaking on behalf of the industry members. We've done our part."

San Diego also said that people now appear to have lower purchasing power and are looking for cheaper alternatives.

This is why demand for chicken has gone down this year, he added.

This year, the Department of Agriculture expects poultry production to hit 1.24 million metric tons, up from last year's 1.21 million metric tons.

From oil to biomass: RP turns to cleaner power

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY CAN TAP AROUND 200 megawatts (MW) of new power capacity from biomass sources, and enable it to veer away from coal and oil to generate power.

In a recent presentation, Mario Marasigan, director of the Department of Energy's energy utilization and management bureau, said that a number of biomass projects are now either ongoing or the subject of feasibility studies.

The projects included the 30-MW Talisay bagasse-fired co-generation facility, the 50-MW Victorias Milling Co. bagasse-fired co-generation plant, the 12-MW Universal Robina Corp. bagasse-fired power facility, and the 20-MW Bais bagasse-fired power plant, all in Negros Occidental.

Other projects included the 1-MW La Suerte rice hull power project in Isabela, the 8-MW Inter-City rice hull power plant in Bulacan, and the 25-MW Panay bagasse-fired power project in Panay.

These projects can produce a combined 143 MW of capacity, Marasigan said.

He added that another 45.4 MW of capacity could be produced from 10 indicative rice hull projects in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

In Luzon alone, he said these potential rice hull projects could contribute 33.7 MW in additional capacity, with 9.9 MW to come from Isabela, 9.9 MW from San Jose City in Nueva Ecija, 2.5 MW from Talavera in Nueva Ecija, 2.5 MW from Muñoz in Nueva Ecija, 5.2 MW from Camarines Sur and 3.7 MW from Mindoro Occidental.

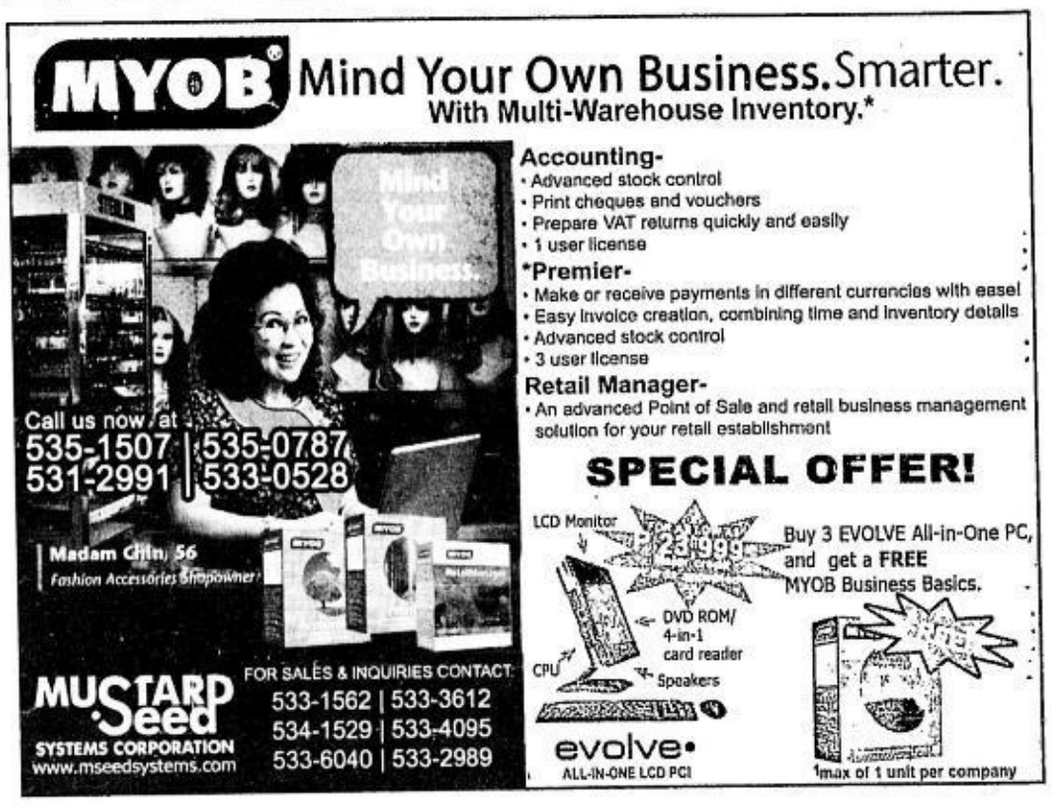
Another 6.5 MW would come from the Visayas, specifically from Iloilo (2.5 MW), Palawan (1.5 MW) and Bohol (2.5 MW).

In Mindanao, 5.2 MW in biomass capacity would come from the South Cotabato area.

As world oil prices continue to escalate, the DOE is urging greater use of biomass for power generation and alternative fuels for transport.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes had earlier stressed the importance of gradually veering away from imported coal and oil, to shield the country from price volatilities and from the adverse effects of climate change.

Viable energy sources, he said, included biomass and biofuels.



Import of meat products seen to rise in 2008

THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT products may slightly increase in 2008 due to the appreciation of the peso against the dollar.

According to Francisco J. Buencamino, executive director of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc., the meat industry may find it more economical to import since meat products from abroad are estimated to be cheaper by 20 percent.

Thus, he added, "we can expect there will be heavier dependence on imports in 2008."

In 2006, the country had imported a total of 181 million kilos of meat, including pork, beef, carabeef and meat additives.

This year however, the industry sees an 11-percent decline in meat imports, Buencamino said.

Despite the expected decline, he said that the country can expect "more meat imports in the next three or four months."

The country currently imports meat from the United States, Korea, Australia, Brazil and parts of South America, which are free of the foot-and-mouth disease.

Buencamino also noted that another advantage of importation is that the meat products have already been sorted, which means the importing firms get in particular the meat portions they need.

He explained that locally, meat is bought in bulk so there is a need for further processing and sorting.

For the Christmas season, Buencamino has meanwhile assured the public that there is an ample supply of meat and meat products in the local wet and retail markets.

Once the available meat volume drops by end-December, Buencamino said, local meat processors would then start importing products.

The livestock subsector, which accounted for 13.28 percent of total agricultural output, expanded by 2.57 percent in 2006.

This sector includes the carabao, cattle, hog, goat and dairy industries.

Hog production grew by 3.90 percent to 1.84 million metric tons. *Amy R. Remo*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) lot Supply and installation of one hundred twenty (120) pieces Acoustic Exterior Windows including furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services per BSP Terms of Reference
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P5,000,000.00
Completion Period	Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed from the Department of General Services (DGS) which will be secured within five (5) calendar days after receipt of a copy of the Job Order.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 14 November 2007, not later than 2:00 PM
2. Pre-bid Conference	10 December 2007, 4:00 PM, Room MR2A
3. Site inspection	To be announced later
4. Opening of Bids	08 January 2008, 2:00 PM, Room MR2A
5. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003, as amended.
6. Post-qualification	
7. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,500.00.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI – November 14, 2007)

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

PMA gears up for the 28th Agora Awards

THE COUNTDOWN TO UNVEILing this year's roster of Agora Greats now begins.

Philippine Marketing Association, the country's premiere marketing organization, is once more gearing up for the awarding ceremonies of the Agora Awards, its flagship project. Slated on Nov. 29 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City, the most prestigious award giving body in the field of marketing is yet again bound to recognize the Filipinos' remarkable flair and expertise in marketing.

Now on its 28th year of giving due recognition to exceedingly adept and competent Filipino marketers and companies in the industry, the Agora Awards is the longest running recognition body for marketing excellence in the country.

As the Philippines braces up for globalization, the country is now faced with the challenge of living up to the more stringent standard of performance across the globe. Given this environment, it is but apt that the Agora Awards embrace the organization's theme for this year of letting "the marketing revolution begin" in every Filipino. This is also related with PMA's goal of hailing the achievements of outstanding marketers that incessantly display superior performance both in the local and international sphere.

To be an Agora Awardee, one has to be in the caliber of Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee Food Corp, Freddie Go of Goldilocks, Jerry Kliatchko of the University of Asia and the Pacific, Grace del Rosario Castaño of Johnson and Johnson, Mariano Manas of Hen Lin and Henry Sy of SM Malls, among several others. More than being the country's emblems of pride, these people who have tremendously excelled in their respective fields are now serving as advocates of progress.

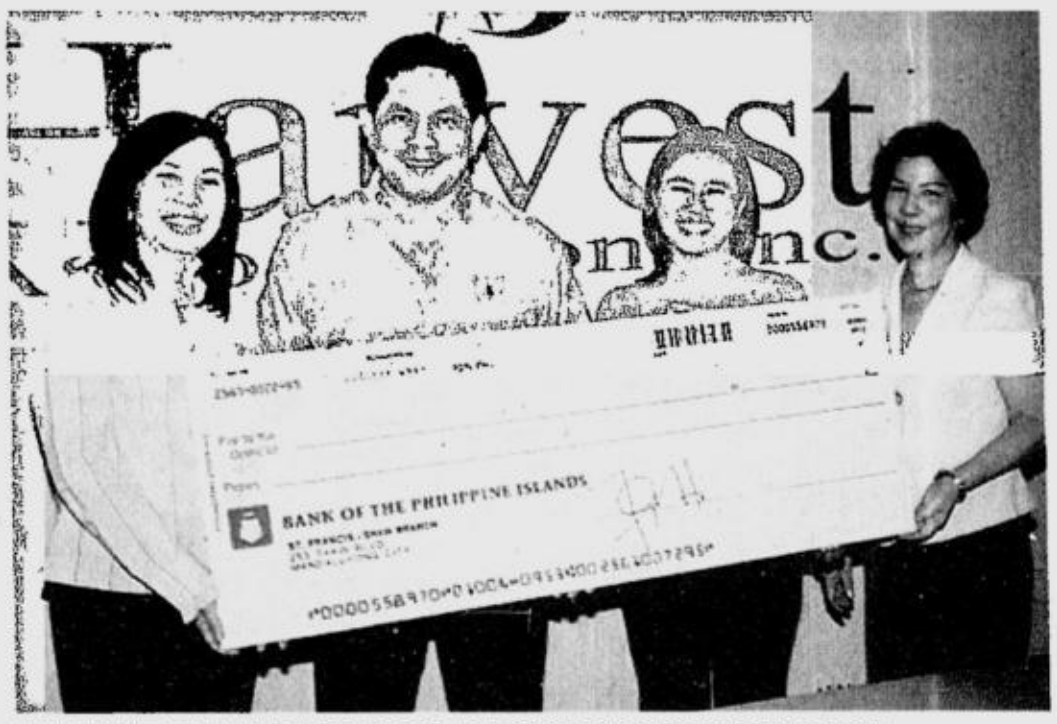
The seven categories include Marketing Company of the Year, Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship, Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management, Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing, Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education, the Asia Pacific Agora Awards for Marketing Excellence and Outstanding Achievement in Advocacy Marketing.

"The Agora Awards showcase the Filipinos' ingenuity in the field of marketing that makes him and his company stand out among the competitive international landscape," Erly de Guzman, PMA's director for Agora Awards, said. "This is also our organization's arm in giving the country appropriate role models for the younger generation."

Qualified nominees to the Agora Awards undergo a comprehensive screening process by the search committee and a series of thorough deliberation amongst members of a strictly selected board of judges, who are also marketing achievers in their own right.

The rigid process of selection of finalists and winners only highlights the fact that Agora Awardees are living testimonies to the claim that the Filipinos' skills in marketing are of world-class quality.

Derived from the Greek word for market place, Agora has honored only the finest and worthiest individuals and companies through all its years of operation.



HARVEST, GAWAD KALINGA TO BUILD 40 HOUSES IN IRIGA

Harvest Aid Organization Foundation Inc, a nonprofit organization formed by civic-spirited individuals, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Gawad Kalinga to build 40 houses in Iriga, Camarines Sur, in Bicol. The groundbreaking was held last June 2007, and is the first step in building a community called Harvest Village, which will house indigent victims of last year's super-typhoon Reming. Established in 2002 by Tomas C. Zita Jr, former chair of the Kuok Group in the Philippines, Harvest's objective is to match underprivileged beneficiaries, whether agencies, groups or individuals, with people, groups, companies or institutions that can assist them or support their cause. Harvest, with the help of friends and donors, previously rendered assistance to victims of the Quezon Province floods in 2004 and the Maharlika Village fire in Taguig, Rizal in 2005. In 2006, the foundation helped victims of the Southern Leyte landslide, the Cagayan Valley typhoon, the Tacloban, Leyte fire, as well as the typhoon Milenyo and Albay landslides. For those interested in donating or participating, call the Harvest Aid Organization Foundation Inc secretariat Marilou Flores-Vicencio at 0917-8445431 or 636-6844. Representatives of Harvest Aid Organization Foundation Inc are shown presenting a check donation to Gawad Kalinga. It is the first check of a series of donations to help build 40 houses in Barangay Perpetual Help, Iriga City. From left, are St. Francis Shangri-La Place sales director Susan Yu, Harvest president Fr. Arnold Eramiz, Gawad Kalinga partnership coordinator Honey Parba, and Harvest's executive director Marilou Flores-Vicencio.

FINALLY, A BOULEVARD NAMED AFTER KA PEPE

On Nov. 6, the new JW Diokno Boulevard was inaugurated in honor of the late Senator and statesman. Shown at the inauguration in front of the SM Mall of Asia, from left, are Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, principal author of the bill in the House, Carmen I. Diokno, Ka Pepe Diokno's widow, Hernando M. Vitas, the initiator and coordinator of the bill in the Senate and the Lower House for 19 years, former Sen. Serge Osmena III, the Senate's principal author, and Rep. Hermilando Mandanas, the House's co-author. Vitas started the bill in the Senate in 1988.

Why you'll get star struck at SM Supercenter Muntinlupa opening

SHOPPERS WILL SURELY GET star struck at SM Supercenter Muntinlupa when it opens its doors to the public to the public on Nov. 16. The opening weekend is packed with great entertainment from some of the country's most popular celebrities.

When the mall doors open at 10 a.m. on Friday on Nov. 16, the first wave of shoppers will be welcomed by music from the Muntinlupa City Brass Band and the rhythmic moves of the Ati-Atihan dancers. It's like the circus coming to town as stilt walkers, jugglers, and mimes perform their breathtaking stunts.

Fans of the popular reality show "Pinoy Big Brother" will be in for a big treat as stars of "PBB Season 2" invade SM City Muntinlupa's Events Center at 11 a.m. Catch Wendy Valdez, Bruce Quebral, Bodie Cruz and Saicy Aguilar for loads of fun games and activities for everyone.

Mall goers can expect more fun and surprises on Saturday, Nov. 17 as the Storyland Band, Ati-Atihan dancers, stilt walkers, jugglers, and mimes continue to entertain shoppers at the Supercenter's main entrance.

Every minute spent at SM Supercenter Muntinlupa will give one a chance for a star encounter. GMA 7's popular heartthrob Dingdong Dantes will mesmerize his fans during the Grand Fans Day as he signs autographs and has souvenir photos takens with fans.

It's a winning day as Grand Champion of the World Jed Madela and Pinoy Dream Academy Scholar Ronnie Laing sing their last songs as part of Universal Record's Album Tour at 5 p.m. La Vendetta star and GMA Records artist Jennilyn Mercado will launch her album "Letting Go" with the title track of "The Art of Letting Go" at 6 p.m.

What better way to end a fabulous day than by witnessing the dazzling fireworks display by LF Fireworks at the Roofdeck of SM Supercenter Muntinlupa at 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 18 will be topbilled by acoustic heartthrob Sam Milby as he performs his famous songs from his latest album from Star Records at 4 p.m. at the events center.

Young and pretty GMA star Yasmien Kurdi promotes her latest single "Kisapmata", a remake of the popular hit song by Rivermaya at 5 p.m. also at the events center.

DENNIS Trillo

Jollibee Kids Meal goes anime

GET READY FOR A TASTE OF JAPANESE action and music as Jollibee brings you new collectible toys from Cartoon Network anime favorites Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi and Mobile Suit Gundam Seed. Now available at your favorite Jollibee stores, each of these six new toys comes free with every langhap-sarap Jollibee Kids Meal, providing J-pop-inspired accessories for the girls and full-on mecha fun for the boys!

Fashion Alert! Fans of funky J-pop purveyors, stay in-style with the Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi Fix-Me-Ups. Get fun and fashionable hair like these youth icons with the help of the Twister Clipper Ami-insert your hair in the holes on top of Ami's head and turn the knob to twist your hair. For a truly go-go get-up look, lock your beautiful hair with the colorful clips! Try different punk and gothic looks on the Snappy Dresser Yumi, with four different ensembles that can be snapped into place. To get rockin' stylish hair, use the Blower Comb-O with its rock n' roll comb; or press the button to release air for curly, ultra-girlie hair. Fans can always tune in to Cartoon Network's Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. for hair inspiration.

Boys, get ready for action! Turn playtime, even homework, into an action-packed adventure with the Mobile Suit Gundam Seed Cosmic Gizmos. The Aile Strike Gundam Paper Striker can be activated by simply attaching the robot warrior to the base and pushing the head downwards to open the paper panel. For mecha-powered writing, use the Freedom Gundam Saber Pen, a mega-robot pen holder including two super pens. Lighting the way of good is the Justice Gundam Jet Flasher, whose eyes provide illumination as soon as the jet flasher is inserted in the back. All three toys also make great covers for 12 oz cups. It's available until Nov. 28.

How to spot a stroke as it happens

STROKE IS THE THIRD LEADING cause of death worldwide and the number one cause of lifetime disability, according to the American Heart Association. Prompt recognition of its symptoms is crucial in the prevention of serious disability or death. Yet, many are unable to recognize signs and symptoms of stroke or are unaware of what stroke is and how it can affect them.

"There's not that much awareness out there about the signs and symptoms of stroke, and people don't understand the seriousness of the situation," said Dr. Tudor Jovin, co-director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-Center for Endovascular Therapy.

Stroke, specifically ischemic stroke, is a result of blocked blood vessels that hinders the supply of oxygen to the brain. Stroke results in permanent brain damage and disability, which is why it is important to recognize one when it occurs.

AHA, in its mission to promote public awareness about the illness, shares the following symptoms as a sign of stroke.

• Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body

• Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding

• Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes

• Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination

• Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Moreover, The National Stroke Association (NSA) created the acronym "F.A.S.T." to help lay people recognize warning signs of stroke.

F is for Face: Ask the patient to smile. If one side of the patient's face wilts, proceed to the next step.

A is for Arms: Ask the patient to raise both arms. If one arm drops, proceed to the next step.

S is for Speech: Ask the patient to repeat a short sentence. If the patient is unable to repeat it correctly and/or if the words are garbled, then proceed to the next step.

T is for Time: If all the above signs are present, it is more likely that the patient is suffering from stroke. It is best to call the proper authorities fast or go to a nearby hospital quickly.

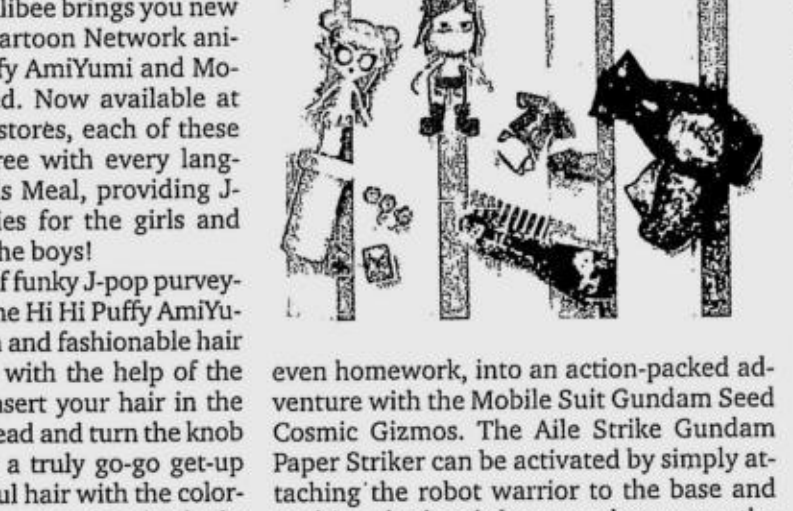
Although these guidelines are important in reducing brain damage, disability or even mortality, primary prevention is more important. "Deleterious lifestyles and behaviors, rather than medical conditions or genetic predispositions, are thought to be the most important and most modifiable causes of the majority of deaths from heart disease and stroke," according to the AHA guideline.

Experts believe that it is better to manage potential blood vessel blockage through constant physician checkups and medications. Cilostazol (Pletaal) is an anti-platelet agent (an agent that reduces blood clotting) that prevents blood vessel blockage and may be used to prevent stroke from occurring. Drugs like cilostazol should only be taken with a doctor's prescription.

Patients should be protected from risk of secondary stroke. Experience with Cilostazol (Pletaal) as an antiplatelet is supported by evidence-based trials for more than 10 years. It is the innovator that provides trusted and proven efficacy and long-term safety compared to other generic equivalents.

For information on stroke issues and prevention, call the customer hotline at 811-4723 for GMA/Metro Manila or 1-800-1888-4723 for provincial calls.

CENTURY PARK TO HOST LUNDA ART EXHIBIT



As part of its offering new treats to its valued guests, Century Park Hotel will play host to the 44th group art exhibit of the Luntiang Daigdig Artist Group Inc (Lunda) from Nov. 15 to 25 titled 'Eclectic Expressions 7.' The country's pioneer environmental art group, Lunda is composed of artists who espouse various styles and schools of thought, namely, Solano Cruz, Eugene Cañete, Nards Zepeda, Charles De Nava, Bal Fornaliza, Rey Conmigo, Jun Taniang, Elver Panuela, Cony Cajayon, Ronn dela Cruz, Armando Guitering, Melinda Dumaual, Josefino Garcia, Salvador Lim, Jesse Robleado, Philip Lamoste, Jolly Ostullano, Romeo Lacson, Ed Bascara, Malou Banalagay, Christopher Ryan Nicolas, Filomena Bondoc, and Salmen Lim. Started in 2000 by the former Galeria de Nava in Malate, 'Eclectic Expressions' is one of the longest-running annual art shows which dwells on nature-themed landscapes, seascapes, still lifes, lucky horses, nudes, rural genre, and other themes that appeal to both the old and new schools of thought. The show is supported by Facility Integrated System and Dos Pueblos Artes at Robinsons Midtown. For details, call 935-3272 or 0917-5237373.

GMA to speak at San Beda Law Alumni anniversary

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 55TH FOUNDING ANNIVERsary of the San Beda Law Alumni Association, the San Beda College of Law and the San Beda Law Alumni Association invite all Bedan Law Alumni from 1948 to 2007 to the Annual Homecoming and Fellowship night on Nov. 27, Tuesday, 6 p.m. at the One Esplanade, SM Central Business Park, Seaside corner Bay Boulevard, Pasay City. Gracing the event as guest of honor and speaker is President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. For inquiries, call Wilma at 735-5995 or 0917-8072222, SBC Alumni Office, Mendiola, Manila.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Fax No. (053) 323-8601

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
For Handling Services in NFA Region VIII for 2008

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its Corporate Budget for 2008 intends to apply the sum **SIXTEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED PESOS (P 16,364,700.00)** of being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the provision of Handling Services in the different NFA utilized Warehouses in Region VIII for Calendar Year 2008 in the following provinces with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as follows:

Lot No.	NFA Prov. Office	Location of Warehouses	Estd. Vol. To be Handled (bags)	*Approved Budget for the Contract
1	N. Leyte	Tac. Port Area, Alangalang & Ormoc	1,000,000	3,969,900.00
2	So. Leyte	Maasin, Baybay & Hilongos	376,400	1,492,524.00
3	Biliran	Naval	266,000	1,055,340.00
4	W. Samar	Catbalogan & Calbayog	933,000	3,700,620.00
5	N. Samar	Bobon, Rawis, Catubig & Victoria	766,000	3,041,280.00
6	E. Samar	Hindang, Oras & Guiuan	783,000	3,105,036.00
	TOTAL		4,125,000	16,364,700.00

The bidders may bid for as many lots as he is interested. *Inclusive of VAT

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders, who may bid any or all lots, upon payment to NFA Cashier of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount indicated below:

LOT NO.	BIDDING FEE	LOT NO.	BIDDING FEE
1	P 4,000.00	4	P 4,000.00
2	P 2,000.00	5	P 3,000.00
3	P 2,000.00	6	P 3,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (telephone number: (053) 323-4240 fax number: (053) 323-8601) and inspect the Bidding Documents at NFA, Pawing Palo, Leyte starting ***November 19-27, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM***.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***December 3, 2007 @ 09:00 AM*** at NFA Auditorium Lobby Pawing Palo, Leyte.

Bids & eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening on ***December 14, 2007 @ 9:00 AM at NFA Auditorium Lobby Pawing Palo, Leyte***. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof: Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check (Cashier's or Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank issued in Tacloban City) – One percent (1%); or Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand" – Two & half percent (2.5%). Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI--November 14, 2007)

APOLOGY

Cabasal Trading hereby apologize to FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD. of Japan and SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC. for selling multi-purpose engines, pumps and/or generators which turned out to be unauthorized copies of the genuine ROBIN multi-purpose engines, pumps and generators. We acknowledge that our acts may be in violation of the Intellectual Property Code (R.A. 8293).

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **INTERNATIONAL PIPE INDUSTRIES CORPORATION** with office address at **119 Ortigas Avenue, Ugong, Pasig City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Producer of Spiral Welded Steel Pipes** on a **Pioneer** Status with capacity of **20,000 MTPY** with project/plant sites located at **Barangay Darong, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department
(PDI--November 14, 2007)

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FCMC 12503/07

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO.12503 OF 2007

TANG KWOK WING — Petitioner
and
DE LA LUNA, MERLE L. — Respondent

NOTICE

A Petition for Divorce has been filed against De La Luna, Merle L., who may apply to Family Court Registry at M2 Floor, Wanchai Law Courts, Wanchai Tower, No.12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition.

If within one month, he has not communicated with the Family Court Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence

Registrar

To be advertised as follow :

Once in Philippine Daily Inquirer, an English newspaper published and widely circulating in Philippines.

ERRATUM

In the Invitation to Bid for the Supply of Services for Comprehensive Maintenance and Support Services for the IT Infrastructure of DepEd Central Office and Supply, Installation, Delivery and Testing of Computers for various Public Secondary Schools Nationwide of the Department of Education published in this paper on November 6, 2007, the position of **JESUS G. GALVAN** should be "**BAC II Vice Chairperson**" instead of "BAC II Chairperson."

Our Apologies.

More Classified Ads

AFP-RSBS A22
DOLE-NCR A22
National Food Authority A22
DOLE-Region IV A23
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Philippine Army B2
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OBITUARIES

ENGR. FAUSTINO SARMIENTO FULGENCIO

of Malabon and Mariveles

Former Chief of Quarrying and Milling Services
DPWH, Mariveles, Bataan

Peacefully joined our Lord
on November 11, 2007 at the age of 93.

His family requests your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Mariveles.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at the Mariveles Cemetery.

Death Notice

ROSEMARIE JAVELONA SANTOS

Passed away on November 9, 2007.

Interment will be on November 15, 2007 at Sanctuario de Sto. Cristo Church Crypt.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ROBERT MILLARD TURNER

Born: Aug. 20, 1934 – Died: Nov. 06, 2007

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who condoled with us and kept vigil during his cremation at Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

OBITUARIES

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff
of
IMUS RURAL BANK, INC.
Imus, Cavite
mourn the passing away of
its Former Director

PILAR MONINA TORNEROS-TALENS, C.P.A.

on November 08, 2007 at the age of 57.

We join her loving husband **Meynard** and son **MJ**; brothers and sister **Dan** (†) & **Beth**, **Terry** & **Yollie**, **Boogie** & **Emy**, **Tess** & **Jun**, **Max** & **Lorna**; aunts **Remedios** and **Aurora**; uncle **Ruperto**; sister-in-law **Pollie**; nephews and nieces; and other relatives and friends in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Sapinoso Grand Chapel, Col. J. Elises St., Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at St. Mary's Memorial Park, Imus, Cavite after the 1:45 p.m. Mass at the Imus Cathedral.

Amor con Amor Se Paga

MIGUELA LUNA vda. de HIZON

(WIFE OF DR. CLEMENTE HIZON)

peacefully joined her Creator
on November 13, 2007 at the age of 99.

Her children and their spouses, **PAULINA, MA. LUISA** (†), & **RENE REODICA, CLEMENTE, JR.** & **ESTELA, TONY** & **YOLY, CONS** & **GAMY ROCA** (†), **CORA** & **REY FLORES** (†), **MA. ROSARIO** & **JOEY JOSON** and **AMY** & **BEL ISABELA** (†); brother and sisters, **GORENG, TUNA** and **PEPING**, grandchildren & great-grandchildren, in-laws, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., #12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

In the morning of November 17, her remains will be transferred to her **ANCESTRAL RESIDENCE** at #091 Poblacion, Pulilan, Bulacan. She will be buried at the Family Mausoleum. Date and time of interment will be announced later.

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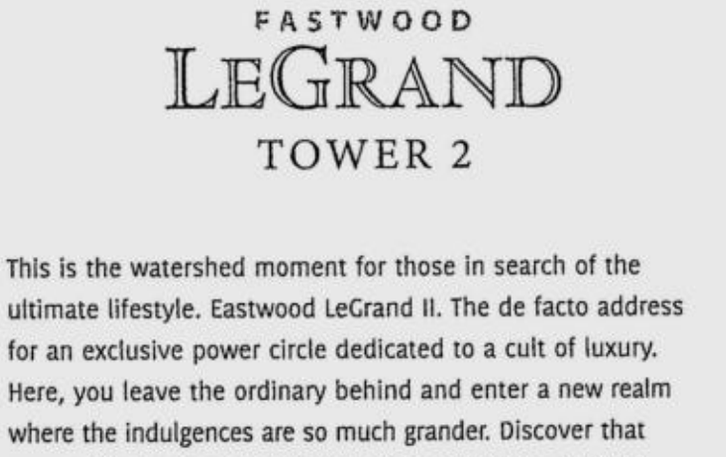

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No doubt, it was still magnificent But the 40th Tokyo Motor Show was missing that 'X-factor' so evident in 2005

PIPE DREAMS. By the time the young Pinoys get to ride these concept cars (Renault's Kangoo and Citroen's C-Cactus), they'd be senile.

Is all not well in Tokyo?

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

THE NUMBER OF COMPANIES that participated in the recently concluded 40th Tokyo Motor Show was 241, two more than the 2005 edition's 239. But if you were to go by the Who's Who of the automotive industry, numbers can't hide the gaping hole left by those who were conspicuously absent this time.

Some of the Detroit Motown's top executives were not seen and their absence didn't go unnoticed. Asahi Shimbun wasted no time reporting these truants. A Fortune report at CNNMoney even went so far as writing "RIP" for the Tokyo Motor Show after citing auto launches by US top automakers being done elsewhere.

Have these fortune tellers hit the nail on the head, or have they just been too quick to the draw? Journalists who attended the motor show witnessed numerous concept vehicles and environment-friendly hybrid machines, making this writer think that the motor show was undergoing a sea change in its overall vision.

Major shift in direction

And if, indeed, the 53-year-old motor show was undergoing a "second childhood," a major shift in direction toward being more environmentally conscientious, then it has to contend with two factors: 1) These hybrids and concepts are still a long way off from actual commercial production, especially in minor markets like the Philippines, and this may be a major turnoff for prospective buyers window shopping in Tokyo; and 2) Even the major markets such as the United States and emerging powerhouse China seem not to be biting the "green" carrot dangled before them.

Of course, the motor show still had its highlight moments, such as the much-anticipated launch of the Nissan GT-R (which did not disappoint, except for the announcement that there was still no tentative release date yet in the Philippines), the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X (tentative RP launch date sometime in April 2008), and the new Subaru WRX STI (tentative RP launch date March 2008).

Honda offered its own surprises for the Tokyo delegates (the latter announcing that its sportier Accord 2.4- and 3.5-liter versions would be available here by the second quarter of 2008).

But if you hear the talk between the revs, something seems to be really amiss.

Weak car market

"The Japanese car market is altogether in weak health. Following a decline of two percent to 4.64 million cars already last year, the market shrank further in the first eight months of this year by 6.3 percent to 2.98 million cars," said Matthias Wissmann, president of the German Association of the Automotive Industry, during a press briefing attended by INQUIRER Motoring at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, Japan.

In another press briefing, Bernard Bohr, chair of the Bosch Automotive Group, said that automobile production in Japan would remain almost stagnant until 2015, at 11.5 million units. But worldwide, he said that Japanese automakers would increase their production over the same period: from 23 to 29 million vehicles.

Fortune's interview with analyst Michel Dunne indicated that Japanese consumers bought 5.7 million vehicles in 2005, but were expected to purchase only 5.2 million units this year. "By comparison, the China market is exploding—from 5.3 million units two years ago to 8 million units in 2007—making it the second largest auto market in the world after the United States." By 2010, Dunne expects Japan to still be "under 6 million units while demand in China is expected to reach 11.5 million."

Japan still main route

Bohr said during the press conference that for Bosch one of the main routes for automotive growth would still lie in Japan. He said that even if Japanese automakers were going international in their supplier structures, it would still be in Japan where major decisions will be made.

Bosch engineers confirm they still collaborate closely with customers in Japan. Their know-how in Japan also serves to support Bosch development teams worldwide.

Bosch Group is one of the biggest German employers in Japan with a workforce of more than 7,800. It operates 20 manufacturing plants, five engineering centers and two test courses.

"Support like this goes to places as far away as Brazil, where, for a Japanese automaker, we are developing a flex fuel system that improves cold-start capability when the engine is running on ethanol," Bohr said.

Favorable signs

Bohr also sees favorable signs for diesel-fed automobiles in Japan, with Nissan and Honda announcing they would launch a diesel passenger car for the domestic Japanese market.

"This is an opportunity for us, not least in view of fuel prices in Japan, which have risen by a good 10 percent since the beginning of the year," Bohr quipped.

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The Tokyo show

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

MAJOR MOTOR SHOWS ARE OFTEN DIFficult to initially grasp in their entirety. Merely a single pass of the major manufacturer's displays can send even the most jaded of motoring hacks reeling from all the sights, sounds and sheet metal. You just get numb from the sensory overload. Trying to understand what's going on and what the general flavor of the show is comes only when the shell shock passes. Even then, moments of true insight are rare.

Tokyo's place in the international motor show arena is to divine the future. It is through the fantasy world of concept cars that the world's major players try to capture our imagination. For manufacturers, showing up at Tokyo without a jaw-dropping interpretation of the future is like going to a wedding reception in your flip-flops. This year there were quite a few who apparently forgot the dress code.

Maybe it was a calculated risk on the part of the manufacturers. In all honesty, trying to steal the limelight from two of the most exciting new releases would be near impossible.

2008 SUBARU Impreza

NISSAN GTR

Show headliner

Headlining the show for all intents and purposes was the unveiling of Nissan's GTR. As bold as the concept, technology and execution of this soon-to-be available super car is its rebellious break from the sustainable eco friendly line that most of the mainstream players are towing.

It would be hard to find anyone who went to the show this year who did not take home a snapshot of the latest interpretation of the all-conquering Skylines of years past.

Off-duty showgirls, clad in trench coats over their scant motor show finery snapped away on their equally tiny and cute mobile phones. Even executives from the European sporting brands jostled with masses to get a closer peak. You get the picture.

The excitement about the GTR is deserved. This car revives the Japanese super car genre and is the gauntlet on the table to the other players who traditionally participate in the segment. Significant too is the gossip going around the Nissan GTR. Finally available in left-hand drive for the first time in history, it looks like the Philippines will be getting a few units. Don't hold your breath though, as this information came from the same people who promised us the Teana in 2003.

Controversially designed

A new release that is sure to hit our shores will be the controversially designed 2008 Subaru Impreza and the generally more impressive STI version. Derogatory remarks about the styling of these WRC-derived everyday tarmac monsters are getting tiresome already. There is really nothing we can do about what this car looks like. And if we can get that out of the way, maybe we can focus on the changes that are going to affect more important things regarding Impreza—mainly the way it will drive. Pray that function overshadows form in this case.

The shift over to the hatchback format is a necessity born of the WRC. Subaru needs a platform that will go toe to toe with the kinds of car that Loeb and the gang are driving. Shorter wheelbases combined with lighter cars will logically be snappier around the corners. Engines remain the same with the beautifully linear power of the EJ25 turbo family of power plants under the brand's signature hood scoops.

Seriously folks, these cars are coming and there's an invite in my mailbox to allay any fears that the Philippine market is going to lose out on these models. The mid-level Imprezas are going to break cover soon, likely within the month. The much-awaited, hot and bothered STI version will hit the fast lanes of Philippine roads sometime next year.

Cars that are able to steal the limelight from the futuristic prototypes and concepts are rare indeed and in this case, the Nissan GTR and the Subaru Impreza WRX Sti define the 40th Tokyo Motor show. This year has given us two models to that are really worth the wait. Speed is on the Philippine motoring horizon. What a wonderful world indeed!

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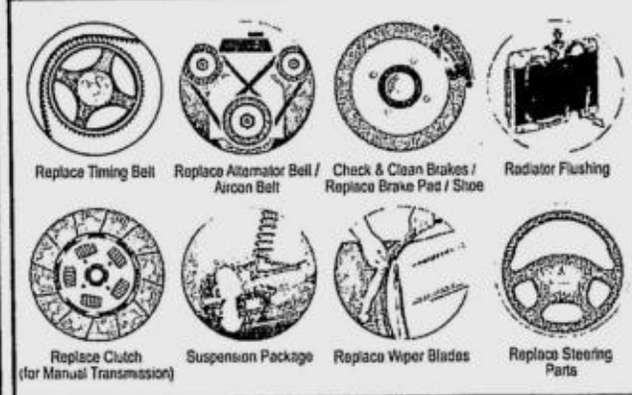

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9. Check clutch release cylinder for leaks and condition
10. Check suspension system for looseness and damages
11. Check drive shaft boots for damages
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TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

Road mishaps No. 1 killer of young people

LAST THURSDAY, THE TRAGIC NEWS of a road accident in Makati City landed on the papers' headlines. The mishap which involved the clash of a dump truck and a Grandia van killed the wife of a former senator and seriously injured four others. Anywhere in the world, road accidents happen, in fact it is considered the biggest killer of young people worldwide.

According to the World Health Organization report in April, about 1.2 million people are killed in road crashes around the world annually. Of this, nearly 400,000 are deaths of people under 25 years old. Millions more are getting injured or disabled.

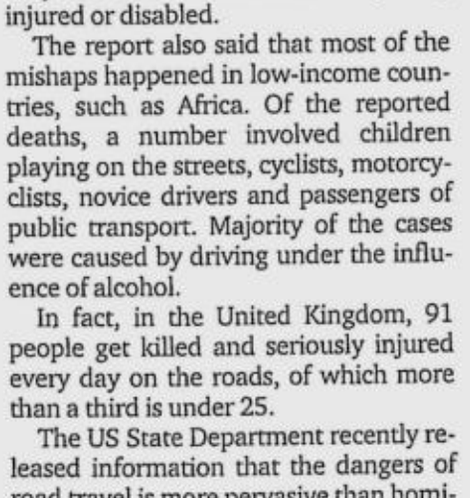
The report also said that most of the mishaps happened in low-income countries, such as Africa. Of the reported deaths, a number involved children playing on the streets, cyclists, motorcyclists, novice drivers and passengers of public transport. Majority of the cases were caused by driving under the influence of alcohol.

In fact, in the United Kingdom, 91 people get killed and seriously injured every day on the roads, of which more than a third is under 25.

The US State Department recently released information that the dangers of road travel is more pervasive than homicide, acts of terrorism or natural disasters.

In the local scene, figures from the Metro Manila Development Authority's Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System (MMRAS) revealed that for the first half of the year, 30,001 vehicular accidents took place in Metro Manila streets. These killed 172 people and injured 5,412 others. The MMRAS annual report covered January to June 2007. Last year, the MMDA recorded more than 60,000 road accidents throughout the year.

(Reference: www.bbcnews.com, www.cbsnews.com, www.mmda.gov.ph)



THE TOYOTA Hi-Ace Grandia of former Sen. Rene Saguisag hit on its side by a dump truck killing his wife Dulce. FILE PHOTO

Carmakers make a difference environmentally

By Charles E. Buban

IF A CARMAKER WOULD LIKE to celebrate a milestone in its corporate history, it would usually roll out a special edition of its top selling model.

These days, however, carmakers would instead hold an activity or a program that usually pertains to environment care.

Such act may seem ironic considering this could contaminate an 81,000-square-meter lake forever).

Exposure to high levels of mercury could make children potentially at risk for learning disabilities, motor skill impairment and short-term memory loss.

"Indeed, carmakers are exploring new terrain here but the good thing about this campaign is that it does not really end here. Our children and our children's children will surely reap the benefits of having healthy environment for more decades to come," Takeda said.

IPC president Keiji Takeda (far left) joins IPC VP for corporate business Arthur Balmadrid, Isuzu Davao president Milton Liu and Davao Vice Mayor Sara Duterte in planting more than a hundred seedlings of the palm species family to add to the greenery of the soon-to-be launched park in Davao City.

emissions from vehicles these carmakers produce are often cited as among the major sources of air pollution and thus, a major public health issue.

Improving awareness

"It's no longer just producing vehicles and engines that have the least impact on the environment, a car company should also help in improving public awareness," explained Isuzu Philippines Corp. president Keiji Takeda.

This is why IPC organize events like fuel economy runs as well as the greening of premier parks in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao under a park conservation campaign that has become the company's project whenever it celebrates its anniversary.

"If the public is more aware of why they should be more environmentally conscious, they would be able to appreciate the things the company is doing with its vehicle product offerings," he said.

Up-to-date

In the case of car giant Toyota it's all about being up-to-date to the current state-of-the-art environmental practices.

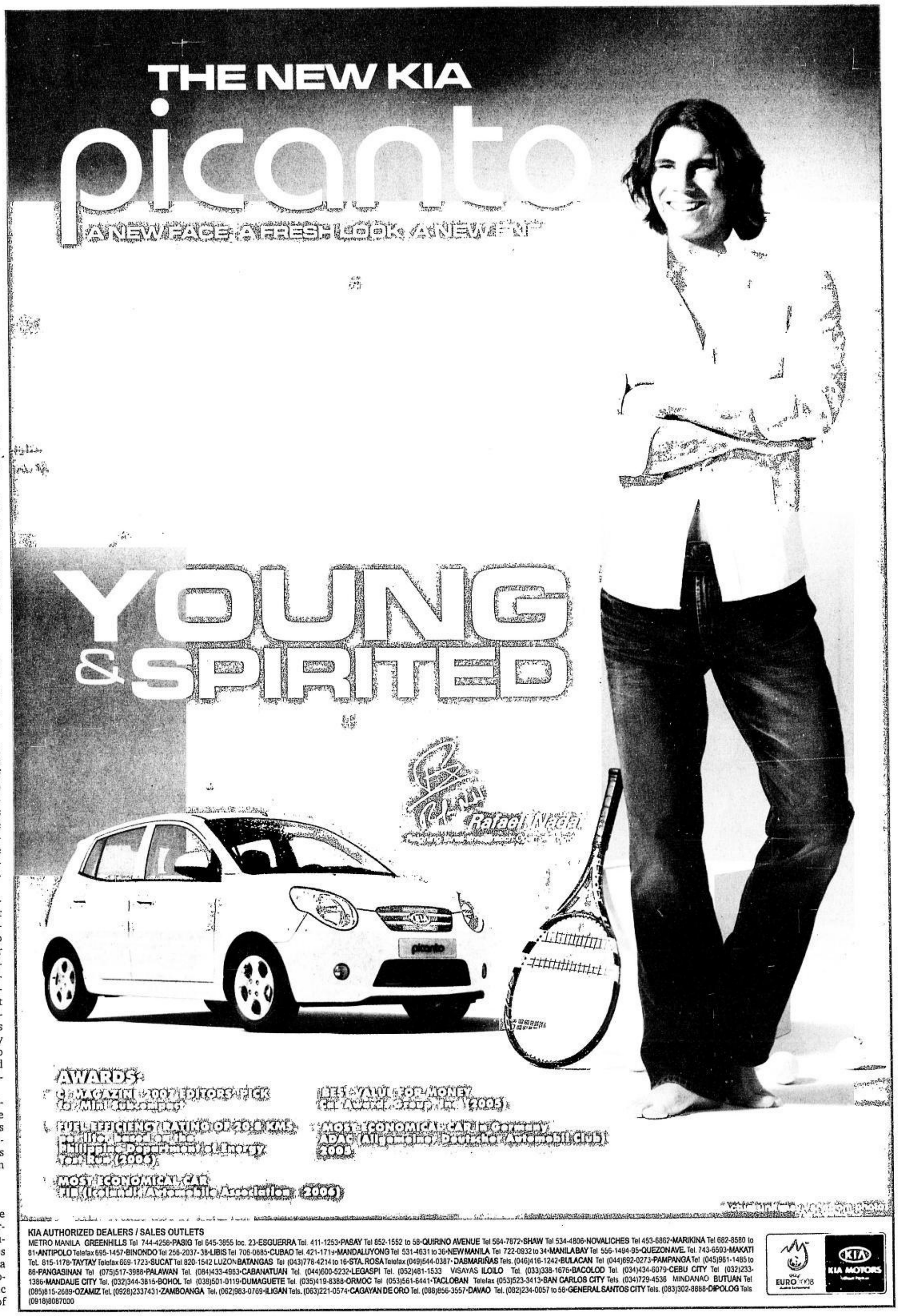
Indeed, Toyota Philippines has shown examples of how it's possible to incorporate sustainable practices into large-scale manufacturing facilities and provide a healthy environment for employees.

Recently, the company announced it has acquired a "busted fluorescent lamp eater" or a crusher that forms an integral part of a company-wide environmental management system to make busted fluorescent lamps acceptable for use by glass recycles or fit to be stored or disposed of to sanitary landfill.

Busted fluorescent lamp is one such waste that is dangerous to handle and it occupies a huge space in landfills.

Processed

It needs to be processed thoroughly because fluorescent lamps contains mercury, a poisonous substance (so toxic that a teaspoon of



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KIA MOTORS

Kia Carens: The sporty compact CRDi MPV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IF YOU ARE SHOPPING FOR AN AFFORDABLE common rail diesel-powered multipurpose vehicle, the Korean manufacturers make choosing a difficult task. Why? Because Kia Motors and its parent company Hyundai Motor Co. offer not one, not two, but three CRDi (common rail direct injection) MPVs to choose from: the Hyundai Starex, Kia Carnival and Kia Carens.

But when it comes to a compact CRDi MPV, the choice narrows down to the 2007 Kia Carens since the Hyundai Matrix was withdrawn from the Philippine market a year or so ago. The Carens first entered with a 2.0-liter, DOHC, 16-valve gasoline engine. The CRDi variant showed up soon after, completing Kia's CRDi-powered foursome together with the 4x4 Sorento midsize SUV, the 4x4 Sportage compact SUV and the Carnival midsize MPV (which this column reviewed last August.)

No competition

With no other CRDi seven-seater compact MPV in competition unless you consider the D-4D Toyota Innova a compact MPV, the Carens enjoys a monopoly in this segment. The Toyota Avanza, Mitsubishi Fuzion and soon-to-come Nissan Grand Livina all have gasoline engines.

This is not to say that the CRDi Carens needs monopoly status to gain market share. At a suggested retail price (SRP) of P875,000 for the LX manual transmission (MT), P925,000 for the LX automatic transmission (AT) or P1,050,000 for the EX AT, the CRDi Carens gives good value for money with the advantage of more frugal fuel consumption, thanks to Kia's second generation CRDi engine technology, and the lower (by P5 per liter) pump price of diesel fuel.

Specs

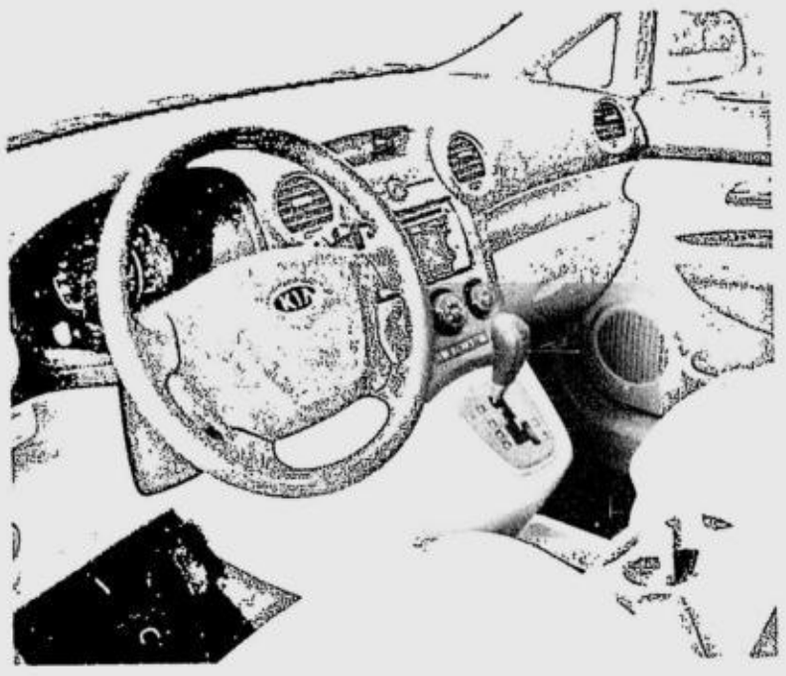
The 2007 Carens' 2.0-liter SOHC 16-valve CRDi engine with variable geometry turbocharger (VGT) and diesel oxidation catalyst delivers 140 ps/4,000 rpm and 31 kg-m/2,500 rpm max torque through the front wheels. The MT is 5-speed while the AT is 4-speed with Neuro Fuzzy logic. In the United States, where it is sold as the Rondo, the Carens has a 2.7-liter DOHC V6 gasoline engine and a 5-speed AT whereas here, as previously stated, the gasoline Carens has a 2.0-liter DOHC engine and a 4-speed AT or 5-speed MT.

However, given a choice between a V6 gasoline engine and a 2.0-liter CRDi engine for a compact MPV like the Carens, I'd opt for the latter anytime in view of the endlessly rising oil prices. Besides, the Carens' CRDi powerplant packs more than adequate torque to propel the 1,716-kg body forward at a fast clip. The seven-seater Carens may have been designed for family use, but it has a certain sporty flair and is surprisingly fun to drive.

Suspension

A carlike ride quality is traceable to a fully independent suspension (MacPherson strut up front, multilink with coil spring at the rear) with stabilizer bars and disc brakes fore and aft. Handling and steering compare favorably with a compact sport sedan's, although there is some body lean when tackling fast corners.

The cabin is well-insulated from road and wind noise while the CRDi engine is not as noisy or harsh as older model diesel engines. The gear shift is conveniently located at the base of the center console stack. The high seats, high ceiling and large glass area provide good visibility and a spacious feeling although the thick C pillars somewhat obstruct the driver's rear view.



IN THE COCKPIT of the automatic transmission Carens
PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA

The quality of the interior materials is above-average and the instruments and gauges are logically placed, easy to read and easy to reach. A total of six cupholders, three power outlets, two rear storage boxes and a small tray above the glove box are a few of the convenient standard features.

7 seats

But what is most surprising about the Carens is that it neatly fits seven comfy, supportive, recline-able seats on a wheelbase that is only 4,545 mm in overall length. Front seat and second row passengers enjoy ample leg and head room, but the tight legroom in the third row makes it good only for children. The second row splits 60/40 and slides forward for easy access to the third row, which splits 50/50 and can be folded flat into the floor to create cargo space. With the third row seats up, there is no cargo space behind.

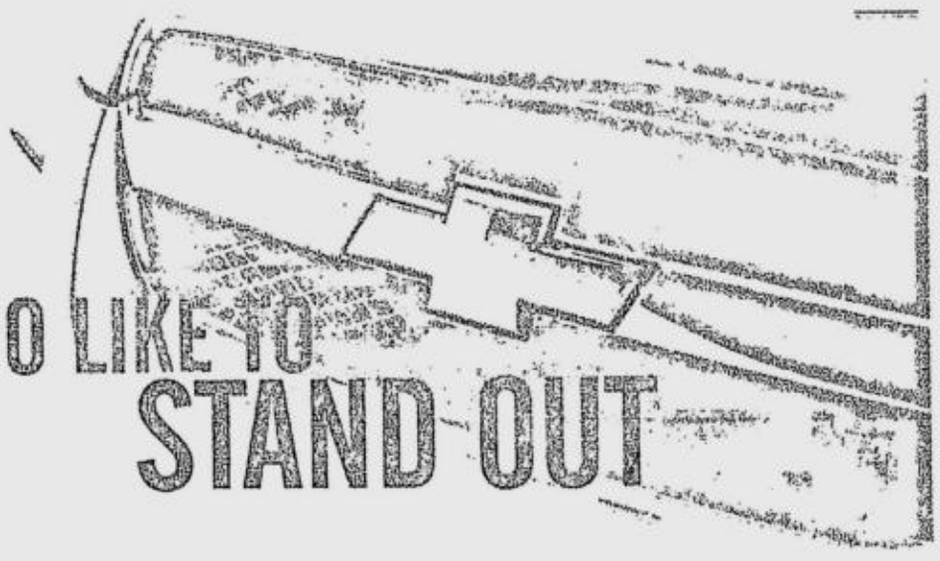
Unfortunately, it is in the safety features that the Carens is parsimonious. Only the top-of-the-line EX has an airbag—only one at that—and keyless entry with alarm. No Carens sold here has ABS or EBD or Stability Control while the Carens sold in the United States has six airbags, ABS and anti-skid as standard equipment. Perhaps essential safety features were removed to lower the SRP but their absence, together with the generally low resale value of Kia vehicles, may make safety-conscious buyers balk despite the Carens' excellent quality and sporty performance.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.

THE CARENS' 2.0-liter, CRDi, SOHC engine with VGT and diesel oxidation catalyst

THE THIRD row seats fold flat into the floor to create cargo space.



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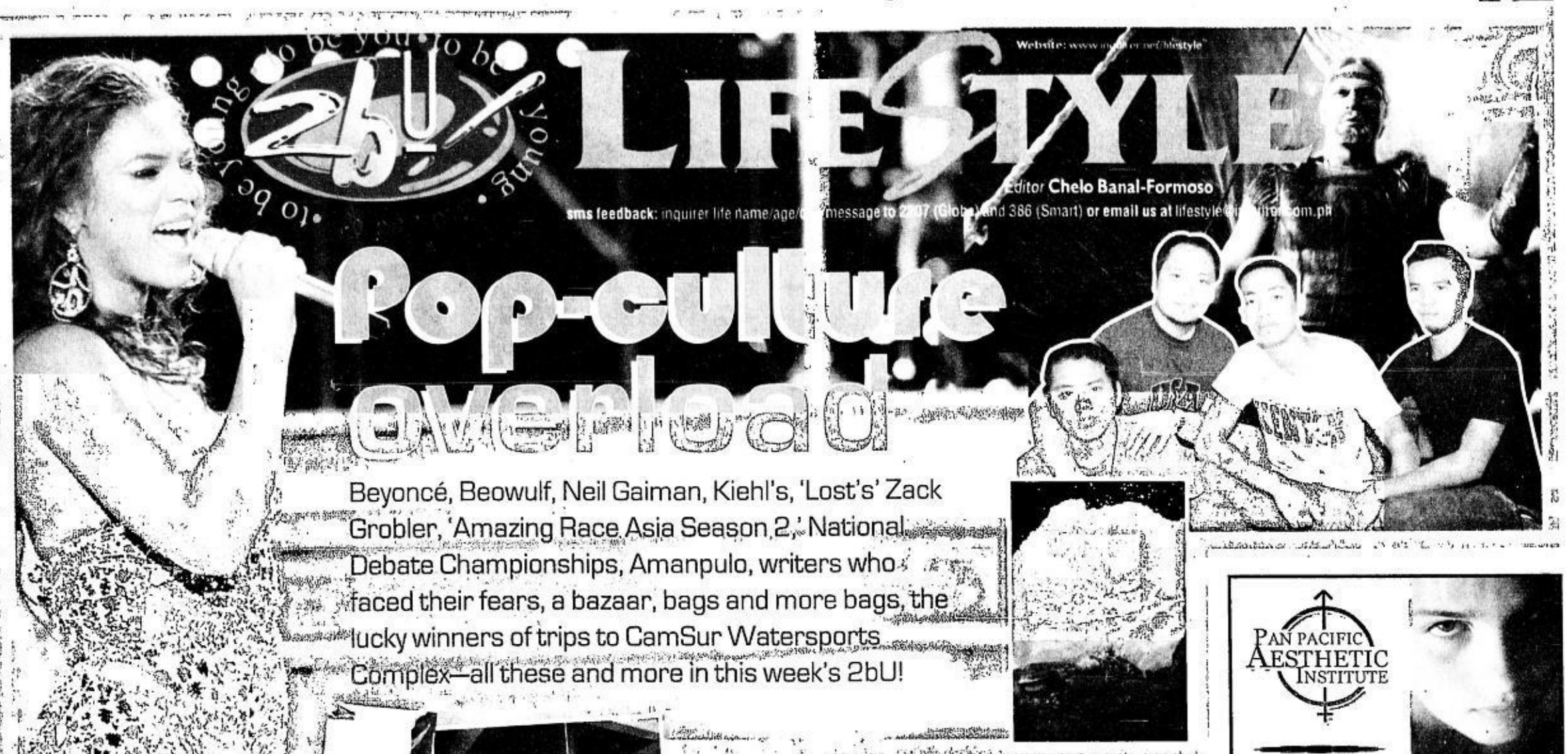

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Pop-culture overload

Beyoncé, Beowulf, Neil Gaiman, Kiehl's, 'Lost's' Zack Grobler, 'Amazing Race Asia Season 2,' National Debate Championships, Amanpulo, writers who faced their fears, a bazaar, bags and more bags, the lucky winners of trips to CamSur Watersports Complex—all these and more in this week's 2bU!

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Zack Grobler creates artistic magic for 'Lost'

THE CAST of "Lost"

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

Some secrets behind the riddle-ridden show revealed

IN THE HIT SERIES "Lost," plane crash survivors start a society from scratch on a seemingly deserted island, and it's revealed that almost every castaway harbors potentially explosive secrets that may affect everyone's survival.

But the guilt-ridden doctor, sexy fugitive, cocky con man and others with complicated pasts must put aside their differences from time to time. The island, after all, has far more bizarre and deadly mysteries in store for its bickering, fidgety inhabitants.

The series continues to be well-received, its many major riddles gradually getting unraveled in recent storylines. One of the few people behind the scenes who's privy to the answers behind the shifting, puzzle-filled scenarios is production designer Zack Grobler, who has worked in movies prior to taking on the job.

He previously contributed his artistic talents to films such as "The Ghost and the Darkness," "The Four Feathers" and "The Interpreter."

"It's my first episodic television show," Grobler shared in an exclusive e-mail interview. "I am originally South African and worked on several films there and in Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and United States.

My experience in different locations around the world made me a good candidate for the show, and I was thrilled when the producers approached me to work on it. They have been great to work with and have liked all my designs so far!"

Please specify the extent of your duties on the show.

As production designer, I oversee the overall vision and style of the show. In collaboration with the director and director of photography, we create the "world" the story plays in. Typically, we would get the outline of an episode four to five days before we shoot it. I would then discuss the location possibilities with the director and with the locations manager. We would then scout these possibilities to see which could work, or how I could make it work by changing or adding set pieces.

While all the scouting is happening, I have to come up with the set designs. I usually start with a few sketches to show the director and get my ideas across. After these discussions and refinements, I then involve my art department.

How does your team develop your ideas?

I design the style of the show and coordinate the departments to execute the vision agreed upon with the director, while keeping it within budgetary and time constraints.

The art department's art directors and set designers draw blueprints and details from the sketches and practically develop the designs to be built as sets. Then the construction department—full of skilled carpenters, plasterers, welders, painters and sculptors—builds the designs, installs and finishes them to the required surface details.

Also, the decorator and the set dressing department provide the furniture, drapes and carpets according to the character, country, color and style I discussed with them.

The greens department adds plants, trees, lawn and even dirt; the property master and assistants are responsible for all the props and objects handled by the actors, and I arrange the style or look of specific items with them and the director.

The locations department also plays a vital role in my designs; I work with them closely.

How challenging has it been to keep the appearances of the castaway characters consistent, and to keep track of story details?

It is very challenging! We constantly flash back between different episodes, times and places. Fortunately, we have very good makeup, hair and costume specialists who have been very successful in maintaining cast appearances.

Many photographs of the cast's makeup and clothing are taken each day to refer to in the future when we have to recreate a specific moment. Each episode is approximately a day on the island in the life of our characters, so we have to maintain details to match!

Each department has files of photos, and I often provide captures from previous episodes to match specific scenes.

How do you scout for places that double for specific countries in flashbacks?

Everything in all three seasons of "Lost" has been filmed in Oahu, Hawaii, except once when we left to film a cave on the big island. Many viewers don't realize that we recreate all the foreign locations here on the island using set building and visual/computer effects.

For the built sets, we've been using the Diamond Head Film Studios in Honolulu, as well as empty warehouses.

Before each episode, my department does a lot of research about the particular country we visit in the episodes. We would remove any furniture, plants, signs that may be too Hawaiian and replace it with our own designs.

We add pieces of sets, like a wall or a sign to make it look like Africa, London, Australia, Korea. We may even add an image of Korea or Sydney outside the window using a blue screen where a computer can later blend the image perfectly to match the lighting and angles.

What's been the toughest thing to create for the show to date?

Because of the tight schedule, almost all the sets are hard to finish on time. It takes about 10 days to shoot an episode. At the start of every week, we would get a new script to prepare to film by the end of the week. We have to find the locations and so on.

While still in the process, I'd get the next episode to start preparing for the following week. That makes it very difficult. We have two film crews working on alternating episodes every eight days, but the art department supplies sets for both, and they overlap each week!

The first episode of Season 3 was the most challenging to me so far.

Please describe the look of the "Swan station" from Season 2 and your designs.

The "Dharma Initiative" supposedly designed the hatches on the island during the late '70s to early '80s. Everything has a distinct retro style from that era. My predecessor, Jim Spencer, did the design of the Swan. I added some modifications and in particular the blast doors, with the black light map from the "Lockdown" episode.

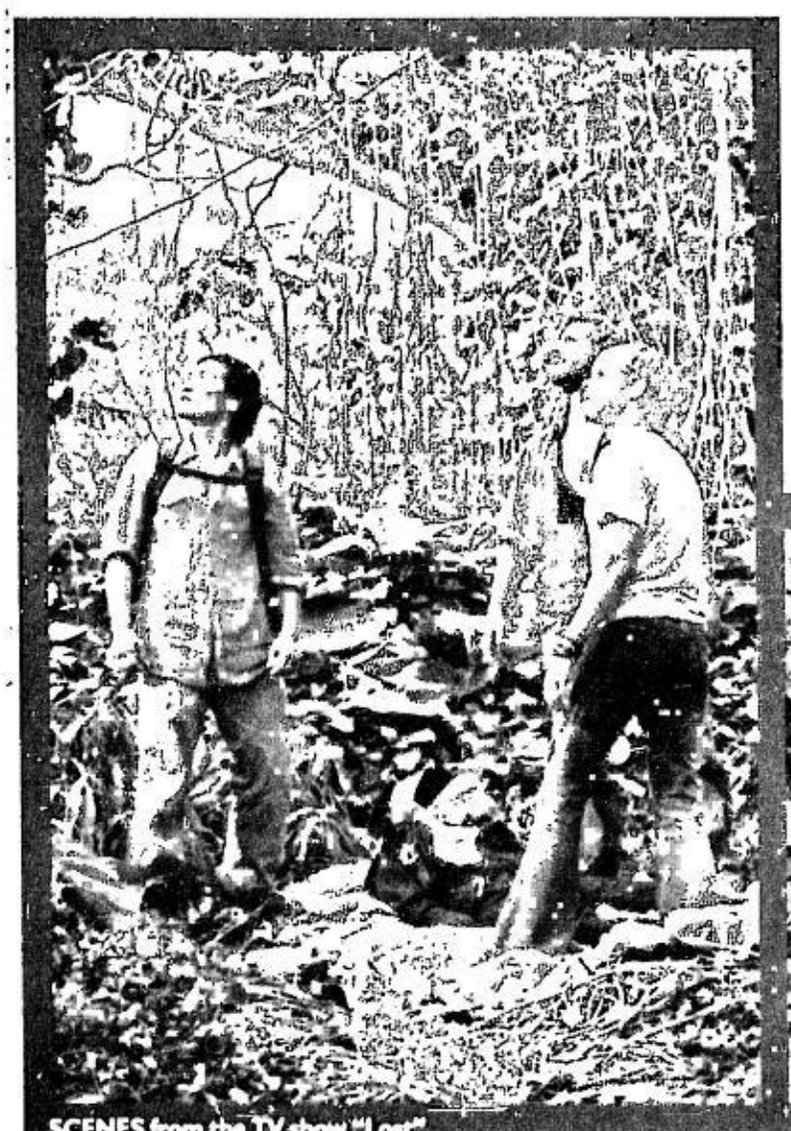
I designed and drew the map in collaboration with the writers and producers in LA. It took several versions before everyone concurred on what it should look like. It's still one of the most downloaded and discussed items on all the "Lost" fan sites. I enjoyed designing the Medical Station, creepy nursery, Pearl hatch and yurt village with the fake door.

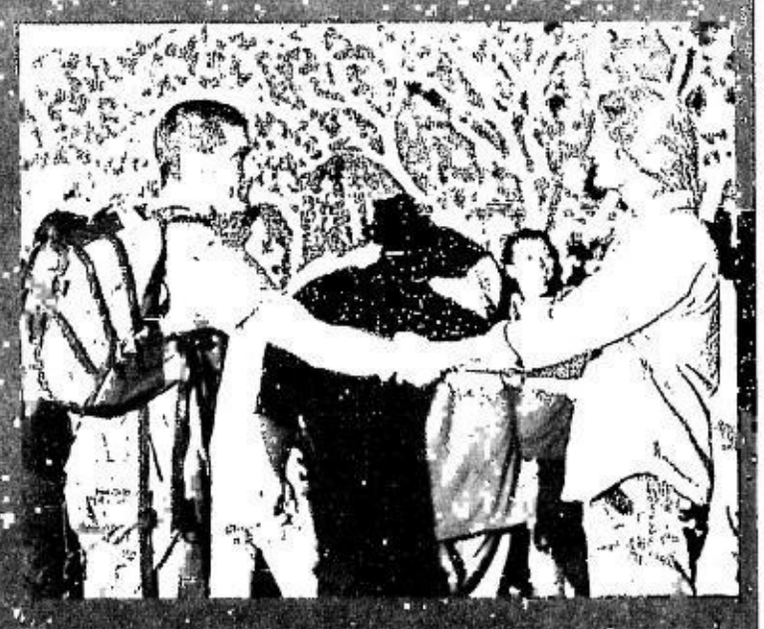
How is creating this reality for the show a different experience for you and your team, and where do you draw inspiration from?

"Lost" is a designer and art department's dream show to work on. We constantly have new and interesting sets to design and build on a weekly basis, in less than a week.

We work very long hours, and almost always wish that we had more time, but the next episode has already started and we have to move on. But it is wonderful to see how much can be achieved in a very short time when you are working with very talented people!

The new season of "Lost" will soon air over Studio 23.





SCENES from the TV show "Lost"

THE JUDGES—Poppet Celdran, Dominic Salvacion, Mark Garry from Big Foot and Jim Libiran—decide who gets to compete in Subic.

Mobile . . .

From page C4

The themes given to work on were "You know you're a Filipino if..." and "What makes Manila unique." Teams were given almost a day to go around the rousing city that inspired many songs and movies. Some teams shot all night while others focused on the story content. There were teams who won the approval of the judges with their knack for editing while others tickled the audience with memorable punch lines or creative storytelling.

Cinemaiksi: Round I

During Day 2 of the workshop, the teams presented their work to a panel of judges and the top five received a Nokia N95 to be used to compete again in Cinemaiksi 2007: The 1st Philippine Advertising Congress Short Film Festival, part of the activities of the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress to be held in Subic, Nov. 21-24.

The grand prize winner of Cinemaiksi 2007 will take home P50,000 cash, a trophy and a trip to the 2008 Hong Kong Independent Short Film and Video awards.

The People's Choice Award winner will receive P30,000.

It only seems like yesterday when Gary Oldman paraphrased the Bard, "All the world's a stage..." while filming himself in the middle of a busy street (Ed, Nokia N93 Advertisement).

Most of us then thought that mobile phones can never replace the real thing. Now, we find ourselves in a mobile imaging revolution despite the continuing debate between the old and the new.

Terms such a "citizen journalism" or "Mobile Filmmakers" have never popped up so often. From blogs to the evening news, video clips taken with mobile phones are a staple.

And since our devices are considered powerful tools with its capabilities, we must remind ourselves to be responsible with the content we produce. And unlike the devices that come out everyday, it is good content that is irreplaceable.

E-mail the author at tammy-david@gmail.com

VERY special treat from the Tribu Boys: Cinemalaya Best Actors from the 'hood freestyle to the delight of the participants.

KARA Bautista and Joey Claronino

ANA Menguito and Meck Besinga, DDB Philippines (Entry: "Pause," Finalist, Best Cinematography and Best Editing)

ARGEM Vinuya and Maki Maquiling, DDB Philippines (Entry: "Global Warming," Finalist)

HEAD of the Tribe: Writer, poet, essayist, documentary filmmaker, activist and journalist Jim Libiran

PARTICIPANT JP Dela Cruz of J Walter Thompson gets ready for battle.

DIRECTOR of photography and cinematographer Poppet Celdran

MASTER editor from ABS-CBN Dominic Salvacion

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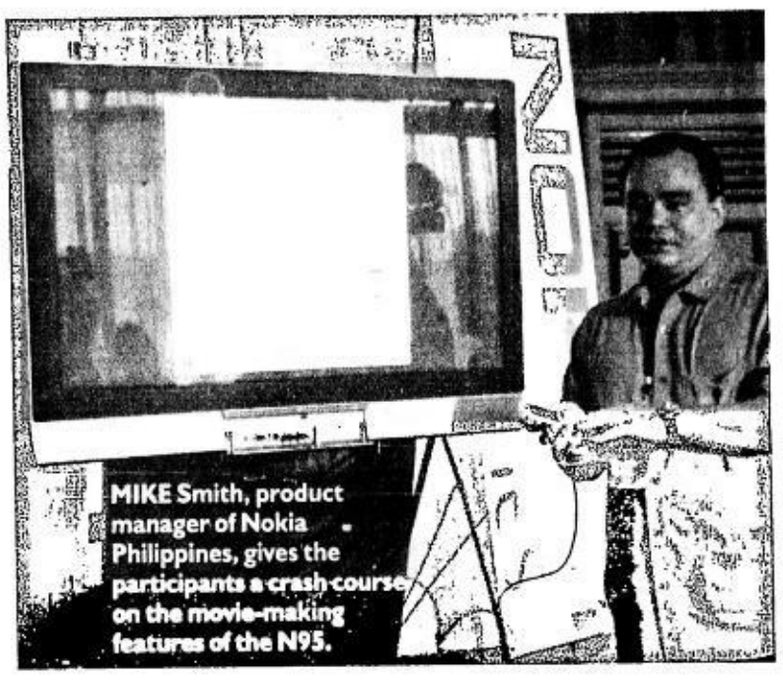
EZRA Lacsamana from Ace Saatchi & Saatchi during one of the workshop activities

JP Cuison and Mela Advincula, Leo Burnett Manila (Entry: "Takatakatok," finalist)



MIKE Smith, product manager of Nokia Philippines, gives the participants a crash course on the movie-making features of the N95.

Mobile filmmaking growing!

Nokia's Cinemaiksi gives a boost to citizen film directors

Text and photos by Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

NOKIA CONTINUES TO BE A LEADER IN the mobile imaging revolution by encouraging mobile phone users to go to the next level: video.

Ever since Janice Yu bagged the first ever Mobile Filmmakers 05 award in Singapore, Nokia Philippines has conducted three workshops, giving users an opportunity to learn filmmaking using their handsets.

Nokia teamed up with Discovery Networks Asia in the first two workshops to feature notable lecturers such as BBC documentary producer Ian Oliver and multi-awarding filmmaker Jeffrey Jeturian.

Armed with Nokia N series phones, participants got hands-on training and came up with material filmed around the Manila Orchidarium or Greenhills Shopping Center in a limited period of time.

Mobile Imaging and film enthusiasts were also encouraged to share their day's discovery by uploading their works in "What's Your Story" (http://www.whatsyourstory.com.ph)

Cinemaiksi: Round I

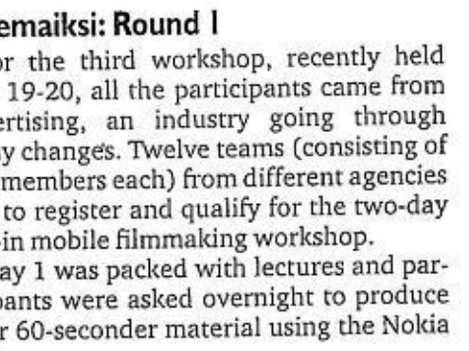
For the third workshop, recently held Oct. 19-20, all the participants came from advertising, an industry going through many changes. Twelve teams (consisting of two members each) from different agencies had to register and qualify for the two-day live-in mobile filmmaking workshop.

Day 1 was packed with lectures and participants were asked overnight to produce their 60-seconder material using the Nokia N95.

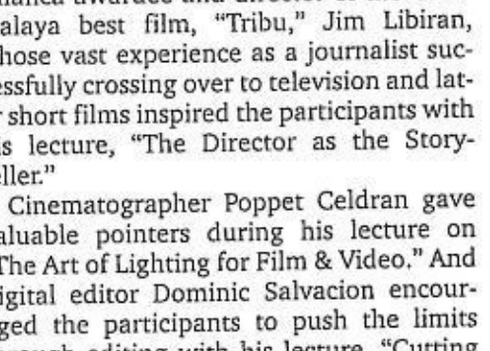
The three speakers of the workshop were Palanca awardee and director of the Cinemalaya best film, "Tribu," Jim Libiran, whose vast experience as a journalist successfully crossing over to television and later short films inspired the participants with his lecture, "The Director as the Storyteller."

Cinematographer Poppet Celdran gave valuable pointers during his lecture on "The Art of Lighting for Film & Video." And digital editor Dominic Salvacion encouraged the participants to push the limits through editing with his lecture, "Cutting Edge: Techniques from the Masters" The speakers also doubled as mentors of the participants during the two-day workshop.

MOBILE/ C3



KARLA Magtaka and Roy Calilon, ABS-CBN Correspondents (Entry: "Hello," Best Film (Guest Participants))



IAN Sta. Maria and Katrina Martires, DDB Philippines (Entry: "Eskinita," Best Story)

KATRINA Encanto and Nicole Tolentino

The bravery and burdens of Beowulf

The giant-slayer and the movie devoted to him both have secrets

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

LIFELIKE VISUALS AND ferocious action merge in the fantasy epic "Beowulf," director Robert Zemeckis' latest foray into digital animation. It's a mythic tale about men, monsters and magic made more mystical by a sublime cast of actors that includes Ray Winstone, Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins, John Malkovich and Crispin Glover.

Aside from technological wizardry and talented thespians, the film boasts of a story co-written by acclaimed comic book author Neil Gaiman ("Sandman") and award-winning screenwriter Roger Avary ("Pulp Fiction"). They weave a dark, dramatic story that retools and expands on a centuries-old poem about the monster-hunting Viking hero.

Gaiman and Avary shared important behind-the-scenes facts and tidbits in an exclusive phone interview with 2bU while promoting the film in London. Producer Steve Starkey also spoke about "Beowulf" in a separate interview.

SCREENWRITERS NEIL GAIMAN AND ROGER AVARY:

How did you divide the writing duties?

Gaiman: I took the words and spaces between the words, and Roger punctuated them (laughs). No, it's almost like leapfrogging and running at the same time. It was Roger's idea, back in May of 1997. He started the script at the arrival of Beowulf, and I wrote the arrival of King Hrothgar ...

Avary: We'd rewrite each other, but it was perfect as it came out of Neil's computer. Sometimes, I'd go, "Oh, he'd get the fantastic scenes," so I did my best to keep up.

Gaiman: It didn't take long to finish it, but we waited after that.

How did Robert Zemeckis respond to the script?

Avary: He originally wanted to produce it. The original idea was for me to direct it. He was saying, "I love this! I love this!" He wanted to do it with his new production company ImageWorks back then. Though no fault of ImageWorks or anyone, money fell short. The rights reverted back to us. Robert contacted eventually; he could not get the screenplay out of his head. He said, "I want it to be my next big, epic movie. It's perfect for performance capture! I wanna do it!" He seduced us back and we worked on it.

Gaiman: And he delivered.

So how is it different to be ex-

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The bravery and burdens of Beowulf

From page D1

ecutive producers, too?

Gaiman: To be honest, "executive producer" is an interesting title. But we owned the material. The magic of Hollywood... we owned the script so we're automatically the executive producers. And it also meant we got the cool things the producers get, like cassette players. But we got the iPod nano (laughs).

How much did you enjoy writing and fleshing out Beowulf?

Gaiman: Part of what drove us was it's the story of a hero, the oldest story of the English language. We're both at the lacuna of the story, the point in the ancient legend where Beowulf fights and kills Grendel, and sets out to slay his mother. Beowulf comes back with Grendel's head...

Avary: But we're not privy to the actual battle. There's no proof that he defeated his mother. And any monster is loved by at least one person...

Gaiman: So Roger and I thought that there's something there. Somebody asked at the American press conference why I write heroes with feet of clay. I can never understand why people can't get it that heroes or politicians, they're still people. They pleasure themselves; they pick their noses. They're human.

Avary: Beowulf is fallible and a braggart. When you look at the old document, it's a simple story.

What other gaps in the ancient story did you fill?

Gaiman: It's pretty odd. The Vikings left graffiti behind and they're not polite. They detail if a woman has large breasts. That's the type of thing they left, and the old monks who wrote it must've edited those things out. But it worked for Roger and me that it moves forward in time. Thirty years later, the king's got everything he wants, but he discovers that they're not what he wants anymore.

Some of the things we discovered turned up on the page as we wrote it. The character of Beowulf turned out to be as much of a monster as Grendel, but he's better-looking.

Avary: We discussed the pop culture of the past. Men relieving themselves might start a conversation, "If Odin and the Christ Jesus had a fight, who would win?" Then another person would say, "In a knife fight?"

Whose idea was it for Beowulf to fight Grendel in the nude?

Gaiman: Quite possibly an 11th century monk.

Avary: The idea in the poem... he had to strip, his armor will only slow him down. His sword would be useless against Grendel. So Beowulf meets him and fights him hand to hand.

You integrated a cycle, where people commit similar mistakes, into the story. How important was it for Beowulf's new mythology to have that?

Gaiman: I think of that wonderful line, "those that don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.' By the end, we leave it up to people to decide and conclude if something happens again.

Avary: I believe all men, all leaders contend with their "Grendel's mother," and they're defined by how they deal with their demons.

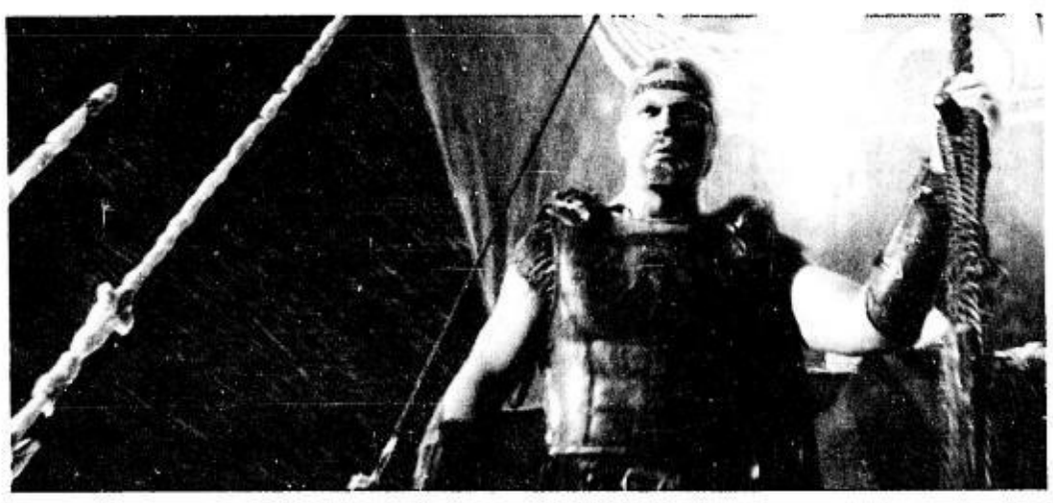
How is this project different from your usual work?

Avary: Interestingly enough, I've been thinking about it for 25 years, since high school. In many ways, this is closer to my heart than the neo-crime films I've done in the past. As a boy, I listened to my father read me Arthurian legends and Norse mythology. I grew up playing Dungeons and Dragons. For Neil, his body of work lent itself in a fantastic way.

Gaiman: I had nothing else with Angelina Jolie in them (laughs). I've never had a novel or comic book with Angelina in it! The entire media circus that comes along with it... We did a press conference in America recently and there's a platform where people are quoting her two lines...

How pleased are you with Robert Zemeckis' direction?

Avary: When you work with Robert Zemeckis, the canvas broadens and the scope just becomes bigger and more epic.



PRODUCER STEVE STARKEY:

How long have you and Robert Zemeckis worked together?

Twenty years. We started together with "Who Framed Roger Rabbit." I was associate producer. We also did "Death Becomes Her." I've been producing with him ever since.

Some people are saying that this kind of animation may replace real actors someday. Do you believe that?

No. You know, the important thing we discovered: in order for this motion capture thing to work, it all has its foundations in human performance for the style to be successful. We still have to depend on good actors. We create characters in the computer; they're lifeless until the performances of actors bring them to life. In this particular case, you capture all of their movements.

Has this type of animation reached a new level in "Beowulf"?

Oh, yes. Most of the improvements are incremental or in small areas but the viewer will see it on a different level. The length of time has gone up; the performance level has gone up twofold. The amount of detail on the wardrobe has also improved.

How smoothly does the photorealistic look combine with the motion-capture effects this time?

When you create something in your mind, you replicate that in motion. The texture and quality have improved significantly. Aging an actor looks very, very real. The important part about our process, it frees you to draw what you have in your mind. In performance capture, anything is possible. There are no restrictions because it runs in the computer and you can let your imagination run wild.

What parts of the movie were the most challenging to make?

The fight between Beowulf and Grendel! A large creature is throwing men around, and fighting was the hardest bit to choreograph. It was very demanding on Ray Winstone because he was required to do acrobatic stunts. At one point, he swings on a chandelier in a mead hall. It's easier with wires that suspend you, but it's still time-consuming and difficult on the crew and performers.

How important was it to copy the likenesses of Anthony Hopkins and Angelina Jolie, and not the other actors'?

In some cases, the performers' looks were needed. In some cases, they weren't. In "Beowulf," Bob (Zemeckis) had an iconic idea of how the hero should look like. It's not that we didn't like Ray; we had an idea for the character already. Someone drew Anthony as a king. Same thing with Angelina as a siren, she looked perfect and seductive. So we didn't change that.

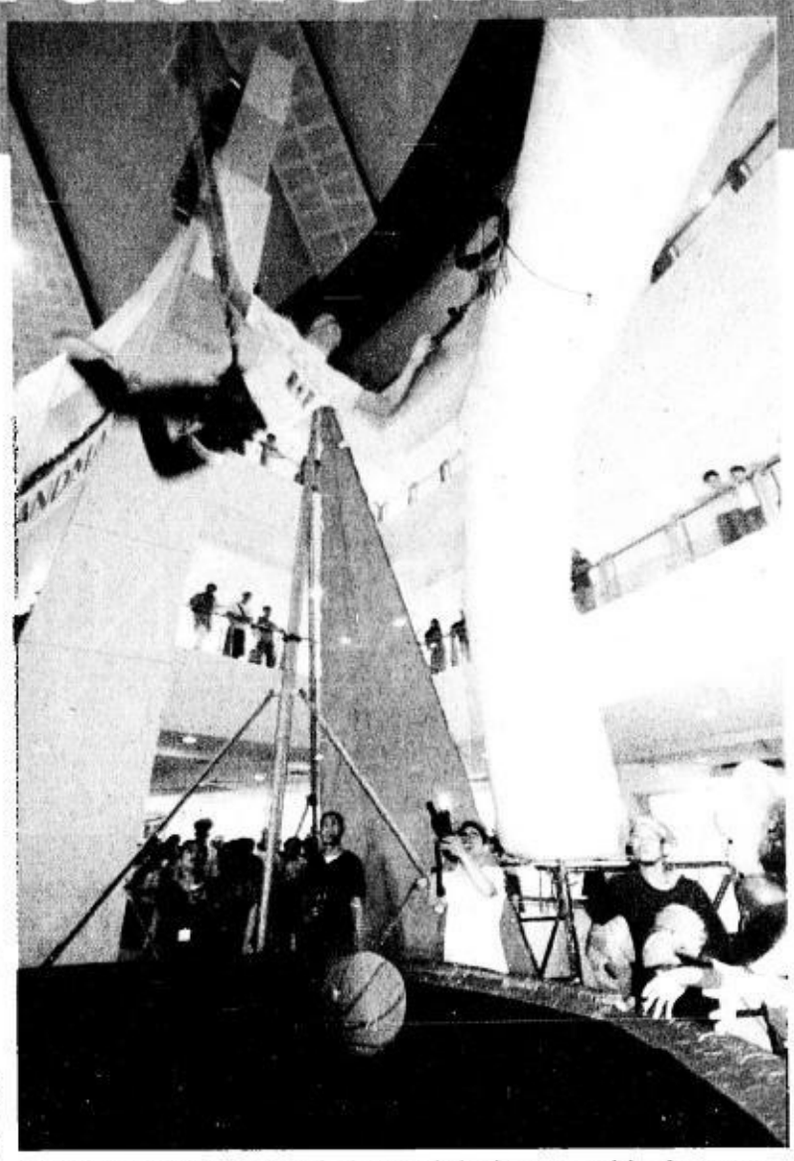
How is "Beowulf" different from other fantasy sagas, and as a project?

This time was as great as with any other experience. We work on different films; it's always challenging and fun. I think that if the reason is to watch big themes, like Beowulf succumbing to temptation, then you will find it worth it. And "Beowulf" has big action, too.

Action and adventure in the mall

A big crowd of contestants, fans and the plain curious showed up at the recent The Amazing Race Asia Season 2 Promotional Event in TriNoma mall

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent



PHYSICAL strength played a huge role in the competition because most of the tasks—such as the Caltex Roadblock and the Alaxan FR Alley Hoop challenges—involved a lot of running, jumping and climbing.

WINNERS of The Amazing Race Asia 2 Promotional Event in Manila

LEADING INTERNATIONAL channel AXN once again proved that action and adventure are truly in the veins of Filipinos as it attracted a big crowd to its recent The Amazing Race Asia Season 2 Promotional Event in TriNoma mall.

Recharged and raring for some adrenalin rush after the relaxing holidays, close to 400 teams of two registered on the AXN web site and made call-ins through Monster Radio RX 93.1. Only 24 lucky teams were chosen to participate in The Amazing Race Asia Season 2 Promotional Event.

Of course, TriNoma's shoppers weren't left behind. Apart from witnessing all the action and being treated to exhilarating musical performances from the country's coolest bands such as Itchyworms, Wake Up Your Seatmate and Spongecola, they also had the chance to participate in exciting contests that gave away premium prizes from event sponsors Greenwich, Caltex, Alaxan FR, Coca-Cola Light, Sun Cellular and Sustagen Premium.

The action-packed mall race—which incorporated the show's elements such as roadblocks, fast forwards and detours—started off at the TriNoma Activity Center, where all the contestants had to complete one side of a Rubik's Cube, finish an entire corn on the cob without the aid of hands, move a set of colored bricks to another area but in the same exact color order and placement, and transfer oily peanuts from one plate to another using chopsticks.

The first 19 teams that finished the first set of challenges and made it to the first pitstop at the mall's Food Choice entrance qualified for the next round. The five teams that made it last were eliminated.

In the second leg, the remaining 19 teams were required to dash off to different venues and areas within the mall for their tasks, which were definitely more difficult than the first ones.

A particular challenge called Pop Goes the World involved an inflatable castle filled with hundreds of balloons plus special ones that contained a colored flag. A member of each team had to go inside and locate these special balloons and then pop them to get the flag. To make things more challenging, four contestants were thrown in together to look for the right balloons all at the same time—and they only had five minutes to do so! If they exceeded the time limit or failed to spot the balloon, time penalty was given.

The other challenges in the leg included a singing duo challenge in Red Box, an open-the-box-with-the-right-key mission and a task where a member had to memorize a poem while riding the dizzying carousel, and then recite it as the teammate mimicked the lines through body actions.

The second pitstop at the Landmark Food Place welcomed the first 14 teams to go on with Zone C of the contest. It included the Tower of Hanoi challenge where teams needed to transfer an entire tower of five colored disks to other open pegs, the Scrambled Egg task which found the teams packing eggs to make sure they didn't break when thrown from the M2 level of the mall, and the Zapped dare where the contestants actively held on to an eye bar electrode and navigated through a wire without touching it.

Last leg

For the last cut-off, the first eight teams that finished all the previous challenges were the only ones eligible for the last set of challenges.

Apart from counting all the *castañas* inside a basket and leaping off a platform to tap a ball, the racers also had to accomplish complex challenges designed by the sponsors.

Speed is important in The Amazing Race Asia and to test the mall racers' speed, Coke Light held a Reverse Scavenger Hunt where teams had to distribute five cans of Coke Light to five different types of people in the area. Greenwich, meanwhile, had a Pizza Delivery Challenge that required both members to distribute 10 Greenwich Pizza boxes to 10 different locations in the mall and return within 15 minutes.

In the Alaxan FR Alley Hoop Challenge—a combination of bungee trampoline and basketball—a member had to wear the Alaxan bandana, jump on the trampoline and when the desired height was achieved, shout the Alaxan tagline before the second member could throw the Alaxan ball to the first member for the alley hoop dunk. In the Sun Cellular Digging-In Challenge, a team member had to guide a blindfolded teammate tasked to get a total of five Sun Cellular Carabiners among a pebble pit.

The most challenging tasks were probably the ones from Sustagen Premium and Caltex, which called for utmost communication and coordination among the contestants.

In the Sustagen Premium Puppet Master Challenge, teams had to place a Sustagen Premium vertical banner between their backs. Both their ankles were tied so that forward movement was limited, while their wrists were also bound by a piece of rope resting on an overhead pulley that made bending forward together impossible. With five cans for every member to pick, the real challenge was for the members to alternately pick up the cans and arrange them on a showcase shelf in front of the other member.

In the physically-demanding Caltex Roadblock Challenge, there were three knotted ropes hanging down from the ceiling: the first touched the floor, the second stopped at 10 feet from the ground and the third stopped at 15 feet. The task was for a team representative to climb 10 feet of the first rope, transfer to the second rope and climb higher than 15 feet, and then swing to the third rope and go up to as high as 24 feet to grab one of the Caltex banners and bring it down.

Top three

After grueling hours and solid teamwork, the top three duos that finished all the challenges with flying colors and the fastest time were announced.

Ending up at third place and winning P10,000 cash, P2,000 worth of Star Cash, limited-edition TARA premiums and goodie bags from the sponsors were Jose Angel Machuca and Cassandra Camille Elazegui.

Coming in at second place and taking home P20,000 in cash, P4,000 worth of Star Cash, limited-edition TARA premiums and lootbags from the sponsors were Lloyd Lee and Jason San Pedro.

Declared champions were the team of Jeffrey Naz Racoma and Maria Julianne Castillo, who said the hardest challenge was the Alaxan Alley Hoop Challenge.

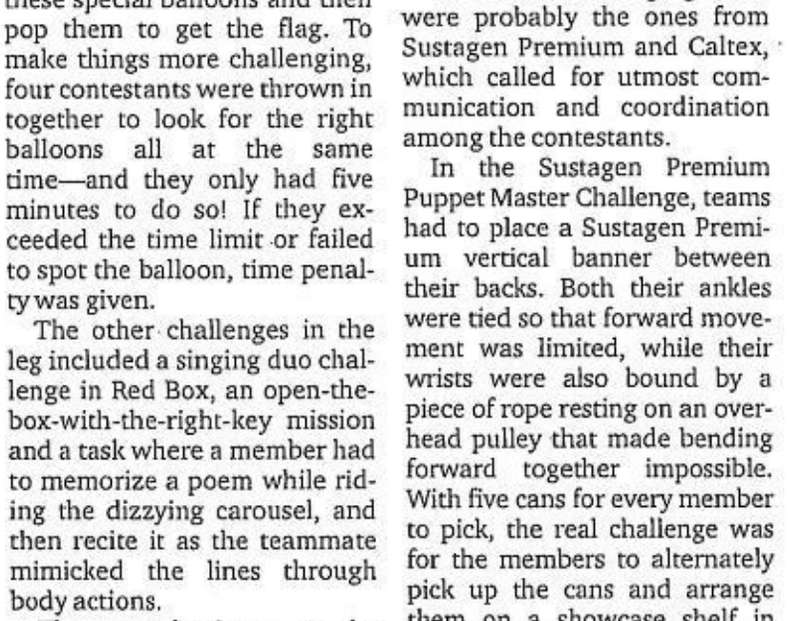
"It was so physically taxing in that it required so many skills at the same time: jumping, pulling ourselves up with the bungee, catching the ball and dunking!," said Castillo, a 24-year-old medical student.

The team won P30,000 in cold cash, P6,000 worth of Star Cash, limited-edition TARA premium items and huge goodie bags from all the sponsors.

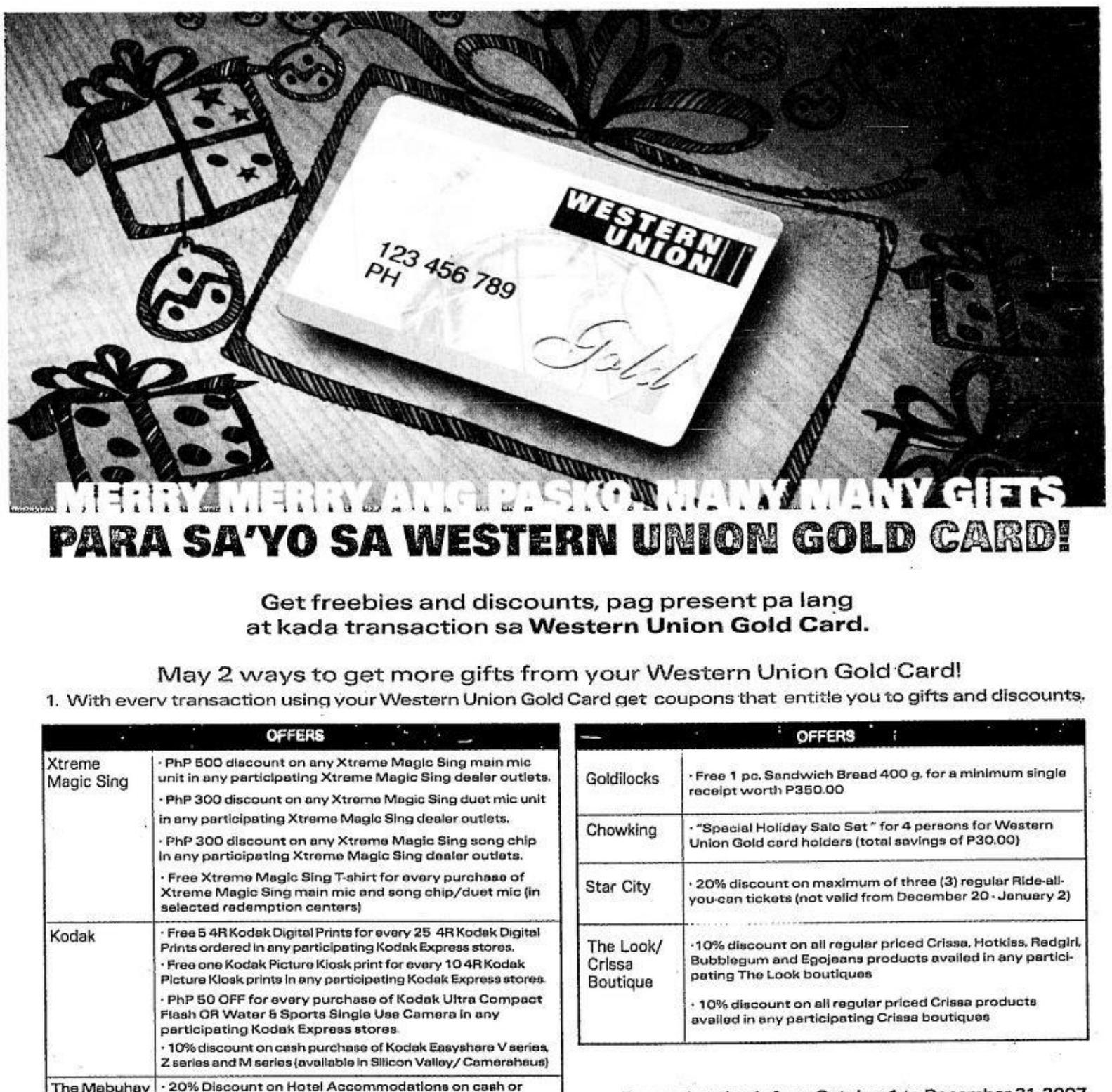
And would The Amazing Race Asia Season 2 Promotional Event be complete without the Philippine representatives? Of course not! Henry and Trinidad Reed plus Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez graced the occasion, sharing bits and pieces about their experiences on the reality TV contest and granting interviews plus a lot of photo opportunities for both the Philippine media and the mall goers.

The Amazing Race Asia Season 2 Promotional Tour was held to promote the Asian edition of the four-time Emmy Award-winning reality series, The Amazing Race. Watch the two Philippine teams as they race for the top spot. The race begins on Nov. 22, Thursday, 9 p.m., only on AXN.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com



MENTAL tasks were also included in the mall race, such as memorizing a poem during a carousel ride and then reciting it while the teammate mimicked the lines through actions.



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The brand that has endeared itself to men of discriminating fashion tastes since it made its first appearance before the turn of the century, now toasts five of Manila's most successful, fashion-forward men whose visions are helping shape the country's future.

Included in this year's circle of Van Heusen's "Five Accomplished Men" are broadcast journalist TJ Manotoc, TV chef Rob Pengson, top pediatrician Dr. Arnel Nuguid, businessman Raymond Albert, and publisher Kevin Limjoco.

TJ Manotoc is a well known sportscaster, news anchor and events host who has distinguished himself for his no nonsense reporting, professionalism and amiable personality. TV chef Rob Pengson, currently the heartthrob of the small screen, holds court as host of the program Chef to Go where he displays his prodigious culinary wizardry.

Dr. Arnel Nuguid became a household name when he personally supervised the care of newborn Baby James, son of Kris Aquino and hardcourt hero James Yap. Dr. Nuguid is well-known among moms who wish to have the best pediatric care for their babies. Raymond Albert heads Tech Trends, a company that links the market with Kodak's latest developments in photo technology. Kevin Limjoco is a dynamic writer, consulting editor and publisher of the upscale C!, Manifesto and Calibre magazines. A self-confessed car enthusiast, he also occasionally acts as a race driver for C!.

"Van Heusen ... On Five" also unveils the latest stylish must-wear from the Van Heusen holiday collection. The brand's season's line will be presented to signify the five elements: Fire, Earth, Air, Water and Style.

Fire represents the collection's newest hot colors in fiery shades and sunset blazes, while Earth unveils Van Heusen's richly-hued components inspired by the grandiose of the Indian Empire and the sheen of jewels. Air encompasses the glam series inspired by the '30s and '40s. Water conjures the leisurely appeal of a sea cruise with the colors of blue and white predominating. Finally the element of Style is captured in Van Heusen's print- and color-plenty components.

More significantly, "Van Heusen ... On Five" launches the brand's line of luxury male undergarments. The line is aptly introduced in the segment that hails the five senses: Sight, Taste, Smell, Hearing and Touch. Made from top quality materials and designed to pamper the masculine body, Van Heusen's line of undergarments INNERWEAR are indeed a treat for the senses. The collection includes briefs in a variety of fashionable cuts and the classic gentleman's boxer shorts.

"Van Heusen ... On Five" uses the latest technology in audio visual art and employs a special stage design that incorporates the Van Heusen V logo. The event is directed by award-winning actor and event specialist Albert Martinez and choreographed by Nathan de Leon.

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Life in a New Direction

Rousing talk in a tight-lipped place

By Miya David
2bU! Contributor

IMAGINE A PLACE where you couldn't wear short skirts, tank tops or your beloved Havaianas. A place where you had to be highly disciplined and keep your voice down, wake up early and not wander around.

Now imagine that place as the same place where you'd have to stand in front of random strangers and speak for seven minutes about a topic few people have ever heard of.

That was exactly the situation participants of the 9th National Debate Championship, held at the grounds of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City, found themselves in.

The National Debate Championships are held every October and attracts debaters from all over the country. From universities in Luzon to other universities in Visayas and Mindanao, these students make time during their precious semester break to troop to the host colleges.

And every year, all the participating universities and colleges prepare themselves for the tournament by training their debaters and adjudicators (the participants who judge debate, students like us) and reading magazines and newspapers to be updated on current issues as much as possible.

The National Debate Championships are held every October and attract debaters from all over the country. This year, they were held at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City

For us in the UP Diliman contingent, this NDC was a chance to defend our 2006 championship. My teammate Diana and I were training as hard as we could because this was our last NDC as undergraduates.

What was really different with this year's NDC was the fact that, well, it was held in PMA. Most of us had never been in the company of so many alpha males all at once, and that was already different. A friend of mine actually said, "They're hot in uniform especially when they're in groups."

Okay, seriously now, the biggest difference was the efficiency and organization of the event. Military training and discipline definitely permeated the whole tournament. The very first day (registration), we had to wait for our whole contingent to be completed before we could even get our IDs taken, which took us about two hours.

AARON Chan (right) of UP Diliman speaking while an Ateneo debater tries to interject CELENI GUINTO

JOE Aguilar of UP Diliman, 1st runner-up for Public Speaking, with Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig KARMINA ALEJANDRO

Lesson learned: Be on time. Something that we had to take into heart or else we'd be left behind by the buses provided by PMA for the trip to Fort del Pilar.

Bonding activities

Before the competition formally started, the organizers set up different activities to foster camaraderie. While most of us would rather just sit and watch or go to the *ukay-ukay*, the team-building activities looked fun, so some people joined in.

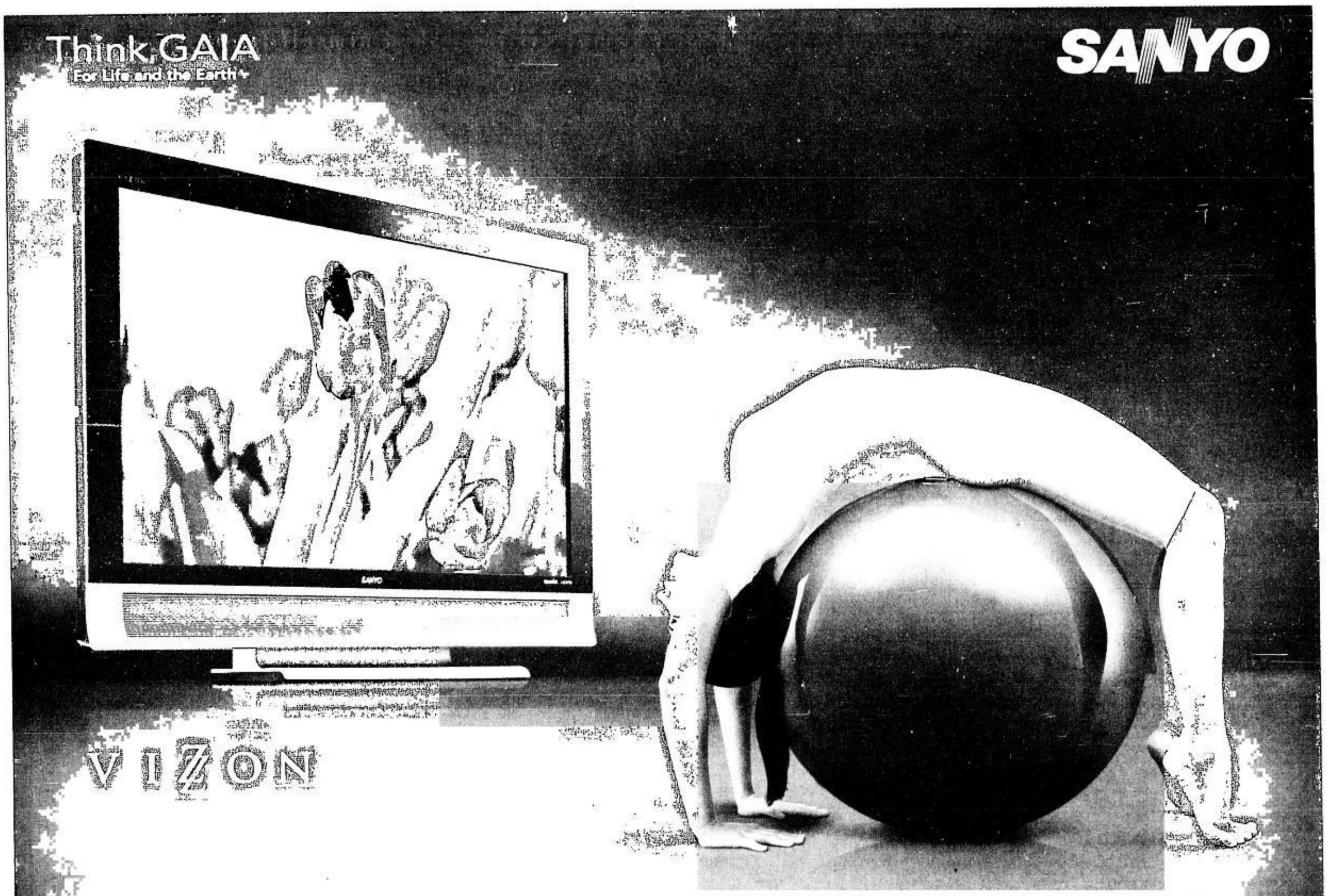
We had dinner with the cadets in their mess hall. They told us how difficult life was for them. While they enjoyed training and studying in one of the best schools in the country, they were also aware that they had to give up their lives for the country if needed. Of course, they kept the banter light so the participants won't leave dinner feeling sad.

The cadets also did a fashion show of all the uniforms they wore (minus the sleeping garb, which would have been more fun to see). This, of course, elicited more squealing from the girls.

Then they surprised us by holding a bonfire in honor of the participants. Our cadet escort, Cdt. Ann Sinson, told us the organizers gave up part of their allowance in order to fund the activities. A cadet band played music while we stared at the fire burning in the middle of Borromeo Field.

All the activities were fun, but there was one thing people

ROUSING/ E3



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A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

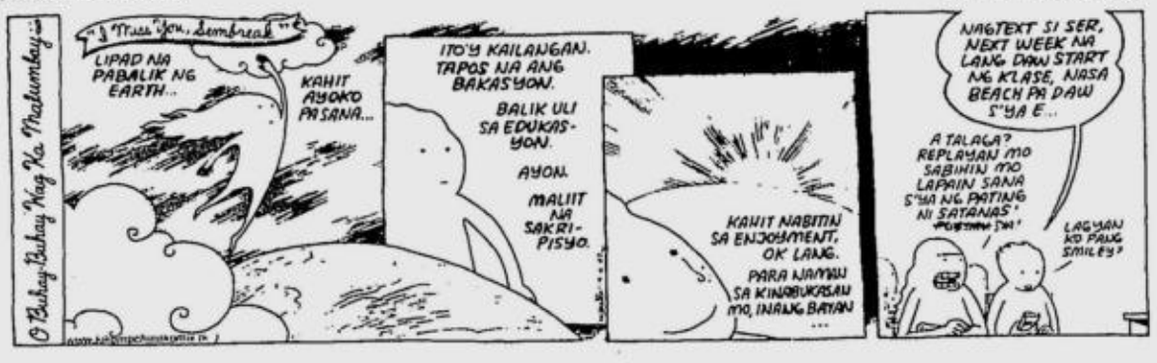
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

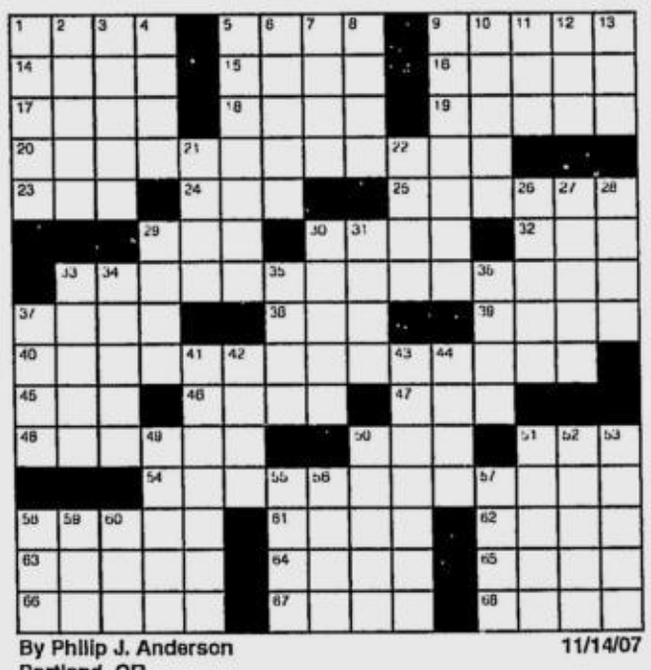
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

11/14/07

ACROSS
1 Map of lots
5 Untidy diner
9 Homeric epic
14 Took a taxi
15 Rend
16 Doofus
17 Middle East sultanate
18 Non-pro
19 Medieval guild
20 Loose musicians?
23 Rock musician Brian
24 Wedding vow
25 Internet missives
29 R-V contents
30 Madonna hit, "La __ Bonita"
32 Cedar Rapids college
33 Loose inmate?
37 Singer Turner
38 August sign, most likely
39 Semitic deity
40 Loose magazine staffers?
45 Eur. sea
46 Bakery display
47 Singer Grant
48 Hospital preps
50 Fr. holy woman
51 Body of water
54 Loose philosophers?
58 List of candidates
61 University honcho
62 Larger-than-life story
63 Fork parts
64 J. Bond foe
65 Anti-crime acronym
66 Blueprints
67 Mingo on "Daniel Boone"
68 Drastic diet

DOWN
1 Dig deeply
2 Willy of "Death of a Salesman"
3 "A Bell for __"
4 See after
5 Last
6 Slowly, in music
7 Solemn declaration
8 French cheese
9 Monstrous
10 Tropical vine
11 Quaint hotel
12 T or F, e.g.
13 Indigo or woad
21 Kyushu city
22 Move, in realtor's jargon
26 Cupcake topping
27 Empirical philosopher
28 Planet-finding grp.
29 Scram!
30 Concepts
31 Glasweglan
33 Down source
34 Derogatory
35 Otherwise
36 Extremely
37 72 deg., e.g.
41 Tyrannize
42 Project vertically
43 Hispanics
44 Revival shout
49 Frequently
50 Ladd classic
51 Old photo hue
52 Idle and Ambler
53 Fancy tie
55 Icelandic saga
56 Time in office
57 Saw groove
58 The Racer's Edge
59 Dogpatch adjective
60 Literary collection

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	W	S	■	B	A	S	T	E	■	A	B	U	T
P	L	O	P	■	A	N	I	O	N	■	L	U	S	H
A	T	R	A	■	S	I	G	M	A	■	I	F	S	O
W	H	E	R	E	S	T	H	E	B	E	E	F	■	■
N	E	O	■	P	I	A	■	■	L	I	N	E	A	R
S	A	N	K	I	N	■	A	R	E	S	■	T	O	O
■	■	■	I	C	E	A	G	E	■	■	G	E	N	T
W	H	A	T	S	T	H	E	B	I	G	I	D	E	A
R	I	C	H	■	■	O	N	A	G	E	R	■	■	■
A	Y	E	■	H	O	Y	T	■	N	O	D	E	A	L
P	A	S	S	B	Y	■	■	M	O	I	■	D	D	E
■	■	W	H	O	S	Y	O	U	R	D	A	D	D	Y
A	R	I	A	■	T	U	L	S	A	■	L	I	E	D
B	A	L	M	■	E	L	G	I	N	■	M	E	R	E
C	E	D	E	■	R	E	A	C	T	■	A	S	S	N

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11/14/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're concerned with your surrounding environment. You care about how things are evolving. You're happy working behind the scenes; you don't need the glory. You understand the dynamics and needs of society. This is why many of you are in manufacturing. You'll be happy to know that the year ahead could be one of the best years of your life. Dream big!

Birthdate of: Prince Charles, British royal; Laura San Giacomo, actress; Josh Duhamel, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Brace yourself for surprises when dealing with bosses, parents, teachers or any authority figures in your life. You might like what happens; but if not, you'll be defiant!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Unusual or different people will cross your path today. Some of you will learn about a different religion or a new way of thinking. You're definitely more in touch with the outside world.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Unexpected news about the resources of others could occur today. Stay in touch with unpaid bills and your bank account. Make sure your phone or electricity is not threatened.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Partners and close friends might surprise you today. They might do or say something quite out of character. Alternatively, you might meet someone who is new and different

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your daily work schedule will be interrupted today. Fire drills, power outages, computer crashes or staff shortages are all possibilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Surprising flirtations might make you sit up and take notice. (Who knew?) Parents should be extra-vigilant with children. This is a mildly accident-prone day for them

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You could have unexpected company, or surprising events could occur at home today. Minor breakages might happen. Take things slowly Expect the unexpected.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll meet someone new today who is interesting. Others will hear surprising news about siblings or relatives. It's not a boring day!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Impulse buying and spontaneous purchases are likely today. Some of you could discover ways of making money independently or earning something on the side

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You feel excited, independent and a bit saucy today. You don't want anyone telling you what to do. (You can do that very well by yourself, thank you.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel a bit restless today. This is because you're dealing with a situation over which you have little control. You feel at the mercy of others, which makes you very much on your guard.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Either you will meet someone unusual today or someone you already know will do something that surprises you. Either way, it's interesting. You might join forces with someone to fight for reform or to try to improve things

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	7	2				1	4	
8			7		9			5
1			2		5			8
2			6		1			3
	3	6	4			7	2	1
			9					6
			1					7
3			5		4			2
	1	8				9	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/14

Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	9	2	6	3	8	5	4
4	6	8	1	9	5	3	2	7
3	2	5	8	4	7	6	1	9
8	4	3	9	5	2	1	7	6
6	9	7	3	1	4	5	8	2
5	1	2	7	8	6	9	4	3
9	3	1	4	7	8	2	6	5
7	8	6	5	2	9	4	3	1
2	5	4	6	3	1	7	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★

UP DILIMAN contingent MAHON ANDACA

NDC finals: Ateneo on the government side, UP Diliman in the opposition ANDACA

CADET Ann Sinson ANDACA

SILENT drill MARK BATAC

Rousing talk in a tight-lipped place

From page E1

were eager for: the debates. This year, the topics ranged from the question of West Bank autonomy to Manny Pacquiao's impact on Philippine culture.

Any debater knows that merely knowing issues and having the logic to argue them through is not enough. There's also this thing called *angas* factor that can be achieved through fashion. How exactly does fashion have a hand in all of this?

Well, take me, for instance. On the first day, I went to the rounds wearing my hip-length denim jacket and an asymmetrical top on top of my bootleg jeans and boots. It was enough to make people sit up and notice. Of course, the right "costume," if you will, could show off your all-important sense of confidence while you delivered your speech. It was an excuse to wear your hottest clothes and give yourself a dose of self-assurance. See, debaters aren't always serious.

Debating in NDC is a chance for college students to test their mettle when it comes to various issues. Annalyn Avila, a three-year debater and first-time adjudicator in the Nationals from UCW, noted that debaters, especially those coming from provincial schools, had shown marked improvement. Even previous high-school debaters like Carlo Flores of UP Diliman found NDC particularly challenging. "In college, *lahat nangangagat*. It's not like high school where it was easy to beat someone. Here there are no sure victories," he said.

Good experience

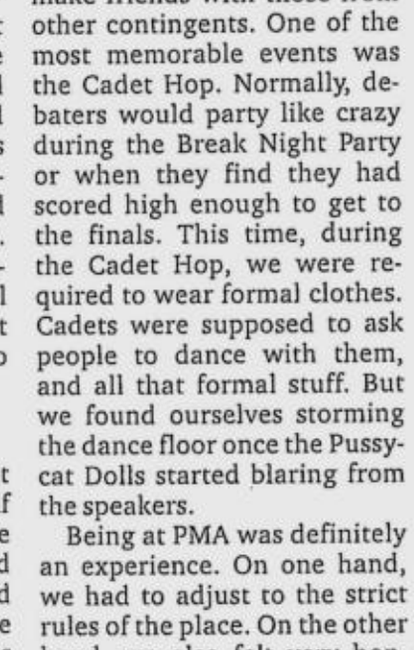
For me, the event turned out to be a good experience even if my team did not make it to the Top 32. The fact that I believed in the words I was saying and that I was giving some of the best speeches of my life was enough. Being able to persuade people with your words was an awesome feeling. And it didn't hurt that I had a fantastic partner as well.

More, the championships were also a means for us to make friends with those from other contingents. One of the most memorable events was the Cadet Hop. Normally, debaters would party like crazy during the Break Night Party or when they find they had scored high enough to get to the finals. This time, during the Cadet Hop, we were required to wear formal clothes. Cadets were supposed to ask people to dance with them, and all that formal stuff. But we found ourselves storming the dance floor once the Pussycat Dolls started blaring from the speakers.

Being at PMA was definitely an experience. On one hand, we had to adjust to the strict rules of the place. On the other hand, we also felt very honored to be welcomed and hosted by these cadets, who, as PMA Superintendent Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig said, are stripped of their freedoms inside the institution (like freedom of speech and freedom to wear whatever they wanted) in order for students in other universities to practice theirs.

For that, we say thank you, PMA, for allowing us to practice the greatest freedom we know, the freedom to argue and say what's on our mind.

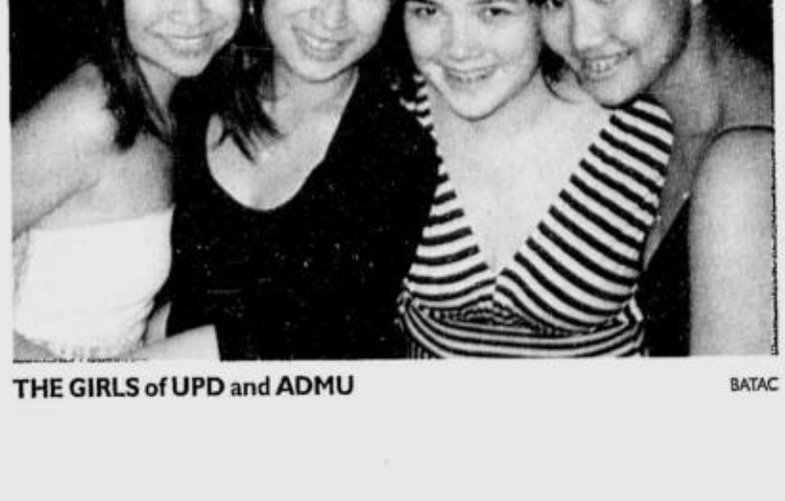
Ateneo once again bagged the championship, beating two UP Diliman teams that gave them a hell of a fight. NDC was a memorable event, never mind if short skirts were out of the picture.



THE AUTHOR'S debating partner Diana Dy (left) and Yana Gonzales BATAC

NIKKO Briguera of UPD and Victor Baguilat of DLSU during the Cadet Hop ANDACA

BO JIMENEZ, Anna Arcellana and the author CELENI GUINTO



THE GIRLS of UPD and ADMU BATAC

Making Rehabilitation Medicine More Accessible

The need for a place that offers rehabilitation medicine has grown over the years, what with the hope it gave many people with disabilities, whether born with it or suffered it as a result of other ailments. The rise in the need happened quick enough to get medical institutions to open their own centers for this form of treatment.

Yet, even if facilities such as this have opened before, a lot of people in need of the services have still been unable to avail of them.

This and the fact that rehabilitation medicine can be a very specialized and elaborate form of medical treatment, has made it costly making them inaccessible to many Filipinos.

Thankfully, one of the trusted medical hospitals in the country, the Manila Doctors Hospital, has expanded its Center for Rehabilitation Medicine, giving more people a renewed hope for this relatively sophisticated form of medical treatment.

People will see this development as a hope because the Manila Doctors Hospital's Center for Rehabilitation Medicine offers a host of services that are excellently given by an experienced staff at relatively accessible costs.

"In the City of Manila, I would say, we have the newest facility with a relatively spacious service areas & cubicles. Our equipments are at par with the others. The Manila Doctors Hospital Center for Rehabilitation Medicine is the place to go for quality yet affordable and accessible services, affirms Dr. Arnel V. Malaya, the center's chairman.

Excellent Staff

Aside from the new facilities, people can also take heart at the fact that the center has with it some of the best in the field.

On board the Rehabilitation Medicine center are licensed physicians and board-certified physiatrists. They are also Fellows of the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine and Diplomates of the Philippine Board of Rehabilitation Medicine. All of the medical staff are also academicians being members of the faculty of various Colleges of Medicine. Some of them serve other major hospitals in the country as well as received training abroad.

The Manila Doctors Hospital's Center for Rehabilitation Medicine is led by Dr. Arnel V. Malaya. He is an Associate Professor in Rehabilitation Medicine at the UERM College of Medicine as well as an Associate Professor and Dean of the UERM College of Physical Therapy.

Joining him are Dr. Alvin P. Mojica, the Dean of the National Teacher Training Center for the Health Professions, Dr Sharon P. Ignacio, the former Chairman of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the UP-PGH, and Dr. Cynthia D. Ang, a faculty of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, College of Medicine at the UP-PGH.

The hospital also requires all of the staff, both medical and non-medical, to be licensed practitioners.

The Services

Since it opened, the institution has treated many patients, each with a different medical need. Thankfully, the center can cater to these needs.

The center offers four major treatments - Physiatrist Evaluation, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy.

All patients of the center first go through the Physiatrist Evaluation/Planning which are made by physiatrists. These professionals act like diagnosticians. They evaluate the rehabilitation problems. Their evaluation is the basis for the prescription of an appropriate physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy modalities.

The center also specializes on quite a number of interventions, like Cancer Rehabilitation and Pain Relief, Dysphagia Management, Electro Analgesia, Gait retraining. Of the services offered, physical therapy services for various ailments/problems constitute the majority of services rendered.

Many who suffer from low back pain, neck pain and stroke have been fortunate to have been treated by the center.

An Informed Service

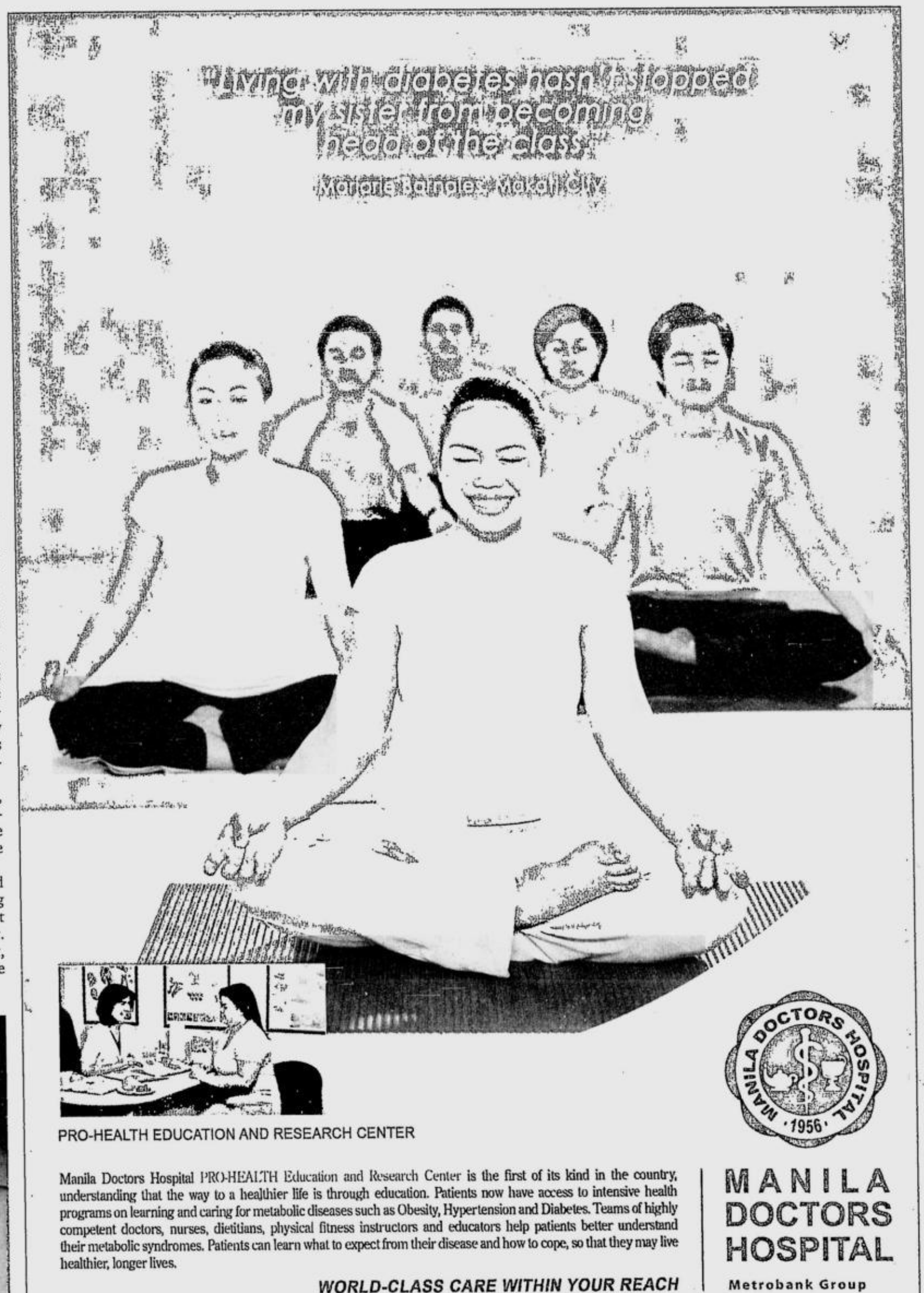
The Manila Doctors Hospital can only want the best for its patients. Dr. Malaya says they have been successful in giving this best. He also confirms that "majority of our patients handled has approved of our excellent handling."

"We try to streamline the flow of patients from the time that they come in for consultation to the time that they are scheduled for actual treatments, within the constraints of our facilities, since it is impossible to treat all patients all at the same time of their choice," Dr. Malaya says.

Dr. Malaya further says, "One of the innovations that we have done is the scheduling of patients consultation with the physiatrists and of course of the treatment itself. This minimizes the waiting time at the doctor's clinics compared with the first-come, first-served basis. For walk-in patients, we try to accommodate them within the schedule. For example, if the scheduled patient does not come on time, then we accommodate the walk-in patient. The originally scheduled patient who came late will be entertained later or rescheduled."

This is only the beginning for the Manila Doctors Hospital Center for Rehabilitation Medicine but it has so far managed to be the best that that it can be. In the next few years, the necessity for rehab medicine will most likely rise.

The good thing about it is they have an institution to turn to that is not only accessible and less costly but also offers the kind of service found in majority of the best similar hospitals in the country



PRO-HEALTH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

Manila Doctors Hospital PRO-HEALTH Education and Research Center is the first of its kind in the country, understanding that the way to a healthier life is through education. Patients now have access to intensive health programs on learning and caring for metabolic diseases such as Obesity, Hypertension and Diabetes. Teams of highly competent doctors, nurses, dietitians, physical fitness instructors and educators help patients better understand their metabolic syndromes. Patients can learn what to expect from their disease and how to cope, so that they may live healthier, longer lives.

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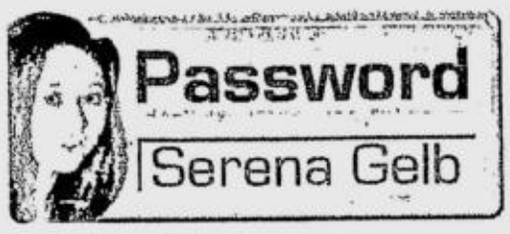
Lovin' the Big Blue



DIVING with my mom

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED what creatures lurk beneath the surface of the ocean?

Ever since I can remember, I have always been comfortable in the water: swimming in pools, on beaches, in the deep sea. Most of my swimming experience has taken place during the day, but I've always been intrigued by the idea of scuba diving at night. On my recent Halloween vacation, I finally had the chance.

In the early days, scuba divers had to wear full-bodied costumes with a hulking helmet and bulky suit, which restricted their motions and made the experience extremely uncomfortable. It was definitely not a sport that you could participate in easily, and not something offered to the general public.

Now, however, the light neoprene suits and vests are much easier on your back, and with practice, just about anyone interested can become a diver.

Scuba diving takes patience and persistence, but it's all worth it once you get into the open water and see what the sea has to offer.

When I turned 10, I could not wait to become a certified Padi (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) scuba diver. I started with a basic, kid-friendly "Bubbler's Course" which was a fun, fairly easy introduction to diving.

From then on, I worked myself up to a Junior Open Water diver, and in school now, I'm taking a course to upgrade to Open Water Diver.

During my recent school break, I went with my parents to Pamalican island, north of Busuanga, near Palawan. I went on a few dives with my mom and saw colorful parrotfish, lobsters, crabs and other marine creatures.

However, my truly magical experience was when I went diving at night! There are a few "adventure" courses available, such as wreck diving (where you get to see an actual sunken ship); wall dives (where the ocean floor is so deep it cannot be seen); cave diving; and night diving, all of which I got to experience firsthand.

Leaving the shore at sunset, we started the dive just as the last rays of light were disappearing behind the horizon. I slipped on my BCD (buoyancy control device), made sure I had sufficient amount of weights, defogged my mask by spitting into it and plunged backwards into the unknown.

KAYAKING and swimming in Big Island, Hawaii

Enchanting world

At night, the whole sea is transformed. A comfortable, familiar dive site turns into an enchanting world filled with strange creatures and plants. We finned along, using merely our flashlights to guide us.

The Dive Master, Max, signaled at us, and we found ourselves face-to-face with a huge crab, as big as a watermelon. In a clearing, Max told us to turn off our flashlights.

We were completely shrouded in darkness, but not for long! Max flailed his arms, annoying the nearby phosphorescent algae, which lit up like marine fireflies, blinking in the dark like little Christmas lights.

Creatures that would normally shy away from you in the day are bolder during the night. Depth causes colors to fade, but at night, using flashlights, we got to experience everything in full color.

As we continued, Max spotted a sea turtle. It was huge, about half my size, with a Remora fish on the turtle's back. They were just floating near the sea floor, relaxing.

One of the great things about diving is that you don't have to go down too deep to see amazing sights. At just 40 feet, we saw a multitude of brightly colored fish, spongy coral and other marine life. Even when I first started diving at age 10 and my lung capacity was too small to go any deeper than 30 feet, I still got to experience the full package, seeing lionfish, bat fish, parrotfish and many other exotic creatures that dwelled fairly close to the surface.

If you want an authentic island experience, you can't ask for anything better than this. And if you're looking for an adventure, try scuba diving. It is constantly thrilling, with new things to learn and new sights to see.

But if diving doesn't sound like the sport for you, snorkeling is a fun (and much more affordable) alternative. It's also easier to learn. Choosing the right beach is essential, but you can see almost as much wildlife without the tank.

Many resorts offer fish feeding, which I encourage you to try. For instance, in El Nido, another resort that I went to with my family, the staff gave us bags of bread which we fed to eager parrotfish, while we watched gigantic jackfish swimming about.

The Philippines is an archipelago of lush, verdant, tropical islands that everyone should take advantage of. Grab your towel, and I hope to see you on the beach!

Shampoo and shopping treat

WENDY Briones won a P500,000 shopping spree from Sunsilk.

SUNSILK'S SURE Gift in Every Pack Promo gives every shopaholic the chance to indulge in a shopping spree worth P500,000.

Last year, 22 year old Wendy Briones of Muntinlupa, a staff nurse in the Intensive Care Unit of the Ospital ng Muntinlupa and a loyal Sunsilk user, won the prize.

Together with her parents, Stanley and Amelita, and younger sister Genelyn, Wendy was given the chance to shop at Glorietta and Greenbelt, where she was given VIP treatment.

She chose appliances from Abenson and items from Ace Hardware for use in their house.

However, what Wendy wants most of all is the simple joy of being able to give to her loved ones.

"What I really want right now is to be able to build a home for my family. I also want to give appliances to the hospital. I know they need it. Since 500,000 is a lot, I would also like to donate to Gawad Kalinga since I know how it feels like to want a house. I think this is the best way for me to share what I have and make somebody else's dream come true, too."

That was one year ago. To have your own Great Hair Day Moment like Wendy's, just look for Sunsilk sachets with the Sunsilk Great Hair Days logo.

Prizes can be claimed for every promo sachet purchased, so the more Sunsilk sachets, the more sure gifts in a pack.

Prizes this year include treats from Smart, Hallmark, McDonald's, Marcella, Netopia, National Bookstore, Leonardo Bags, David's Salon, Fitness First, Kameraworld, Genevieve Gozum and Automatic Center. The grand prizes are a P150,000 room makeover from Blims and a brand-new Honda Civic!

Call 5888800 or 1-800-10-564-7258 (toll-free outside Metro Manila). Winners can also call these numbers when claiming their prizes.

HAVING a Great Hair Day moment with her whole family!

Free seminar on Singapore elementary education

EDCRISCH INTERNATIONAL is conducting a seminar on Singapore education, curriculum, textbooks and teaching methodologies (6th Series) at the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE) at Pearl of the Orient Building, 1240 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila on Nov. 16-17.

The seminar is in partnership with Marshall Cavendish Education, Singapore's leading publisher of textbooks and supplementary materials for pre-school, primary and secondary schools.

Singapore education is one of the most admired in the world because the country's students have consistently placed first in Mathematics and Science in the Trends in International Maths and Science Survey (TIMSS) held in the past two cycles from 1999-2003.

Speakers are experts on Singapore Education, including Dr. Yeap Ban Har, who has conducted seminars and workshops around the world.

Yeap will be discussing "Math Tricks and How Math is taught in Singapore."

He is an assistant professor of Mathematics at the National Institute of Education in Singapore.

He is involved in teacher training, and also teaches graduate courses and doctorate students in the area of Mathematical Problem Solving and Early Numeracy.

Aside from Math, there will be seminars on Science and English. These seminars will be conducted for free and open to private-school teachers, principals and administrators.

These seminars, including exclusive workshops and private consultations are held biannually for local schools who have adapted Marshall Cavendish books into their school curriculum.

Call 8310742 and 4071424, or e-mail at info@edcrisch.com.ph.

My Beyoncé experience

By Mark Bonifacio
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN I FOUND OUT that Beyoncé was confirmed to come to Manila for a concert, I couldn't help but be giddy with excitement. Who would have thought another big name in music would agree to perform in our shores, so soon after Christina Aguilera and Josh Groban?

Besides her to-die-for curves and bootylicious dance moves, Beyoncé has sold over 50 million records as one-third of the trio Destiny's Child. Her 2003 solo debut "Dangerously In Love" earned her five 2004 Grammy Awards including Best Contemporary R&B Album and Best R&B Song ("Crazy In Love").

With her five-in-one-year Grammy win, Beyoncé tied the record with Norah Jones for the most Grammys to be won in a single year by a female artist. Beyoncé's second solo album, "B'Day," released in time for her birthday, closed out 2006 as one of the year's most successful albums, coming in at No. 7 on Billboard's US Top 10 Best-selling Albums chart. It has sold over 4 million copies around the world.

Likewise she has appeared in movies like "Austin Powers in Goldmember," "The Fighting Temptations," "The Pink Panther," and the film version of the smash Broadway musical "Dreamgirls."

Having watched some clips of her concerts on TV and Youtube, I knew Beyoncé would be a total performer and her night in town would be spectacular.

Come that magical evening, the venue was packed early with people, from stars and students to office workers, kids and foreigners.

When the intro began to play on the giant screens, people who just arrived, or who had gone to the food stalls or the restrooms, immediately dashed back to their seats. Everybody stood up and screamed for Beyoncé.

Woman power

The concert started with Beyoncé in a shiny gown opening the show with her first solo hit "Crazy In Love." Backed up by an all-female band, she unleashed a display of woman power as she performed her hits from "Dangerously In Love" and "B'Day." Noteworthy numbers were "Beautiful Liar" (with Shakira on the wide screen and a dancer doing her belly-dancing part), "Baby Boy," "Get Me Bodied" and the soulful "Dangerously In Love."

IF YOU MISSED "THE BEYONCÉ Experience Concert" in Manila, don't fret! 2bu! is giving away 10 "The Beyoncé Experience Live!" DVDs, a deluxe set capturing all the excitement of the year's most spectacular world concert tour. Just e-mail contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

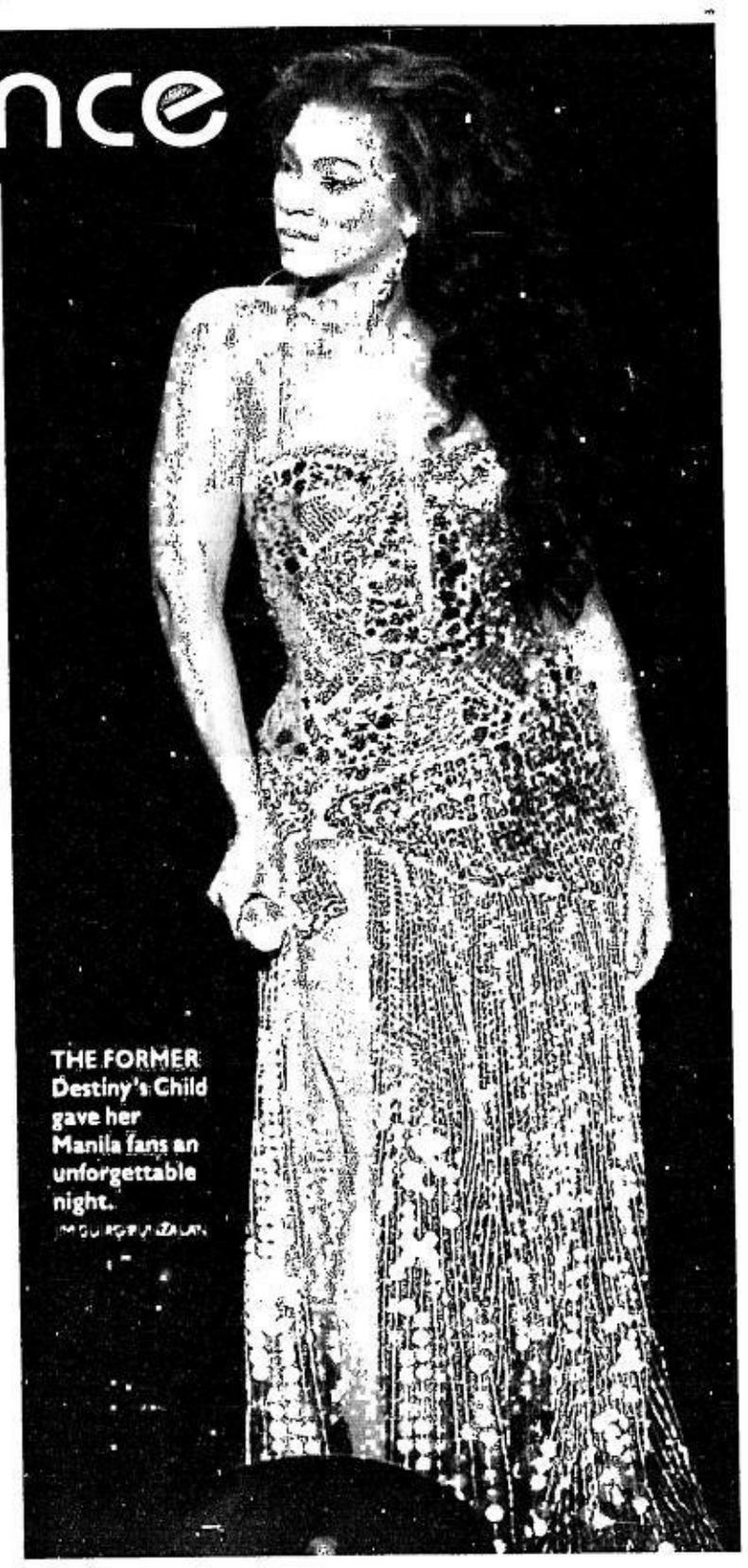
> Despite two hours of dancing and belting, she sang with indefatigable energy and power right up to the last song

Beyoncé never forgot her roots as she included hits from her Destiny's Child days: "Independent Woman," "Survivor," "No No No," "Bootylicious," "Bug A Boo," "Bills, Bills, Bills," "Say My Name" and "Jumpin' Jumpin'" among others. Of course it wouldn't have been complete without her belting out "Listen" from the "Dreamgirls" soundtrack. She closed the show with her current big hit from the "B'Day" album, "Irreplaceable."

There might not have been grand props, but the stage, lighting, screen visuals and Beyoncé's several costume changes were a thrill to watch. But it was really Beyoncé's performance that carried the show. Despite two hours of dancing and belting, she sang with indefatigable energy and power right up to the last song.

The audience stood up and danced to Beyoncé's songs, which was so unlike the Christina Aguilera concert where security people treated the audience like grade-school students, motioning for them to sit every time somebody dared to stand up and dance.

What an unforgettable experience—something you'd never get tired of watching again and again.



THE FORMER Destiny's Child gave her Manila fans an unforgettable night.

Full House?

2BU! FACE YOUR FEARS

A story of loss

I will never stop fearing loss, but the promise of other things—of rosy dreams painted in the sky—has since eclipsed that

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

The art of losing isn't hard to master; so many things seem filled with the intent to be lost that their loss is no disaster.—excerpt from "One Art," Elizabeth Bishop

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODIGUEZ

I HAD ODD PRAYERS AS A child. Aside from the usual "Dear God, please let me get a high grade in my math exam" or "Please let the weather be good so our Scouting Club can go camping tomorrow," I asked for something peculiar: I prayed for an early death.

My life wasn't particularly miserable, and I wasn't into any death-loving cults. Black wasn't my favorite color, and I didn't spend hours locked up in my room, slashing my wrists with a rusty blade.

In fact, most of my childhood was spent curling up with books; dressing dolls in tulle gowns and rhinestone tiaras; and standing by the stove, dipping my spoon into the dishes my family cooked.

On summer afternoons, my sisters and I often stood by my grandfather as he peeled the brown skin off roasted peanuts for *kare-kare*. When he finished grazing each piece with his thumb, he raised the *bilao* in the air and shook it, briefly suspending the kernels in the air and releasing paper-thin peanut skins to the wind.

This way, we experienced other seasons when the summer days were unbearably hot: we pretended that the skins blowing in the wind were snow, and when they settled on the ground, they turned into autumn leaves falling from a maple tree.

There were plenty of good times. So when I lay in bed at night, tired but happy from boisterous rounds of hide-and-seek, or after devouring a particularly good meal, I would pray. Pray that my family would be safe forever, and if that wasn't possible, that I would die before any of them did.

Innocent prayers

It wasn't a morbid death wish that was the force behind my innocent prayers, but the fear of losing the people who had made me happy.

After all, I was just about 6 or 7 then, and my knowledge of tragedy was limited to losing pets or a breaking a favorite toy. (At 3 three years old, I kept my family up all night by wailing because Mini-Cuddles, my stuffed bear, fell under the bed. I insisted that it had died and moved on to another life.)

Even then, I had a vague idea of what loss meant, and I knew I didn't want to face it.

But even the strongest prayers from a child couldn't stop loss: as I got older, distant relatives and friends started dying. A grandfather's sister, or a grandmother's cousin or a frail old lady who taught me math on weekends. I went to their funerals and felt suffocated by the grief that mingled with the scent of lilies.

However, those deaths did not bring tears, only confusion. Once, after coming home from a funeral, I brought out a wad of paper and sketched a scene of a burial, with snakes snoozing under the ground where the coffin lay. My mom thought it was a moving tribute to the dear departed. I only drew what I imagined was waiting, six feet under.

Then the proximity of the deaths got closer, and one day, my paternal grandfather died. My mom called up the house to pass on the news, her voice punctuated by leftover sobs and hiccups. That night, after having dinner with my other grandparents, who were babysitting my siblings and I at that time, I prayed that I would die before anyone else. I was 10 years old.

A few years later, I told a friend about wanting to die early. He chalked it up to vanity. "Don't think about wrinkles!" he exclaimed. "That's a silly thing to think." He went on and on about overcoming obstacles with age, but I didn't explain myself anymore.

There was no need to bring the issue up with anyone again until my other grandfather was diagnosed with cancer. By then, I was a college freshman with a more acute awareness of death. But there were no more wishes of dying before my family did. Only regrets shouted out to the heavens, frantic bargains with God and the feverish thumbing of rosary beads.

Rambling soliloquies

My grandfather's death was followed by a year of sustained numbness as everyone in the family tried to get on with their lives. It was as if we were all made to face our own mortality.

Family lunches were constantly peppered with rambling soliloquies about death and missed chances. A bottle of my grandfather's aftershave might as well have been tear gas, for all the reactions it set off on those who opened it "just to get a whiff of his scent."

The months settled into years, and we when finally came to terms with the fact that he was gone, sepia-toned memories of afternoons cooking peanut stew replaced painful recollections of hospital bedsides and numbed desperation.

I encountered the same feeling of overwhelming loss a few years later, when an encounter with a cheating boyfriend reduced me to my 6-year-old self again. I was back in my room, wiping away hot tears, and wishing that there was a way to die from dizzying emotional pain so it would be over.

In one of my bouts of self-pity, I went through a number of books, hoping to find consolation in pages filled with prose. Some induced a stronger bout of wailing that alarmed the neighbors, but it was Ray Bradbury's "A Story of Love" that made my hopeless wallowing finally start to end.

"There's one more thing," said Ann Taylor, one of the characters in the story. "I want you to remember, there are compensations in life. There always are, or we wouldn't go on living. You don't feel well, now; neither do I. But something will happen to fix that. Do you believe that?"

I will never stop fearing loss, but the promise of other things—of rosy dreams painted in the sky—has since eclipsed that. If time has proven anything, it's that there really are compensations in life. Otherwise, I'd be no better than my 6-year-old self, praying for an early death because I was too afraid to cry.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji @yahoo.com

Don't send in the clown

Its figure—garish and eerie—continued to strike a different kind of terror in me even in later years

By Ryan Fernandez
2bU! Contributor

I WOULD OFTEN STRUGGLE wildly for the dangled pop-cap guns and packs of jack stones. But then my eagerness was usually met by the swift elbow of someone's *yaya* swinging at me like a sledgehammer sleeved in white.

The blow itself was often numbing, followed shortly by increasing waves of pain that rippled out from the point of impact. If hit in the solar plexus, I gave out a solid "puh" before staggering away for the nearest chair. But if hit square on the nose, which happened every now and then, I reeled back, dazed and teary eyed from burst blood vessels and showered confetti.

Childhood could be unkind, but kiddie parties were ruthless. These were more savage times; way before Dance Dance Revolution and the Wii contained the kinetic frenzy of 7-year-olds. Back then, those that could outlast everyone else at Trip-to-Jerusalem and the Newspaper Dance could gloat over their lesser kind with boxes of battery-operated action figures and imported candy. The rest of us simply peeled ourselves off the pavement after a rough round of *pabitin*.

But what struck fear in me was that dreadful presence. It strode above the sea of tin-foiled party hats, rousing mischief among the children. "Bring me..." it would say, scanning the room with beady, yellow eyes.

I inched my way closer to my mother, ready to claim the first Ninoy bill, the longest belt, the highest heels, whatever was needed. Whatever it demanded. The next moment, the room would erupt in an uproar—the loud flapping of wallets, handbags spilling on tables, adults taking off shoes. Then after the mad scramble, there came th low rumble of stampeding little feet.

All eyes were on it, and in return it seemed to delight in the attention. Round and swollen, its head rested on starched ruffles like an egg about to roll off the nest's edge. The bleached-white face was painted with rose cheeks, purple stars, black eye shadow that veiled over droopy eyelids.

On humid days, the makeup wore off in sticky patches, or smudged around the edges of its red, red mouth. All this was framed by a frizzy mane of neon that bobbed to and from like a creature all its own. The other children tried to snatch it, but I knew better.

"How about... a dance contest?," it whispered into the microphone. The flip was switched, and the speakers blared out the sonorous, hypnotic chant of the Macarena. The others shrieked with glee and jumped from their chairs, arms akimbo and shaking their hips.

Oh God, I heard myself mutter under my breath. What was this madness? How could we be led so easily? A hand—probably my mother's—pushed me to the dance floor. It joined us too, lurching and heaving in a baggy jumpsuit that jangled with fist-size buckles and buttons.

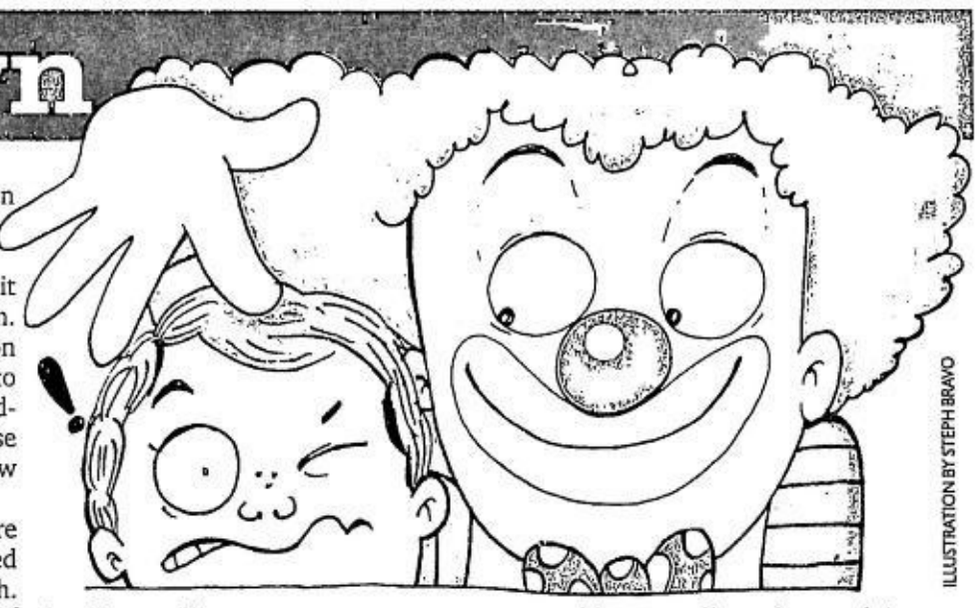


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

I would later cry when it singled me out, forcing me to do the Running Man as everyone watched and enjoyed some cheap laughs. Later on, I would also cry when my family was having lunch at a restaurant and it showed up, now with a tuft of orange and a giant bow-tie. It headed for a function room that was spilling out with the moos, bleats and squawks of Old McDonald.

I hid under the table, hoping those preying eyes would never find me. My parents chuckled, but then again they never felt the fear that I did.

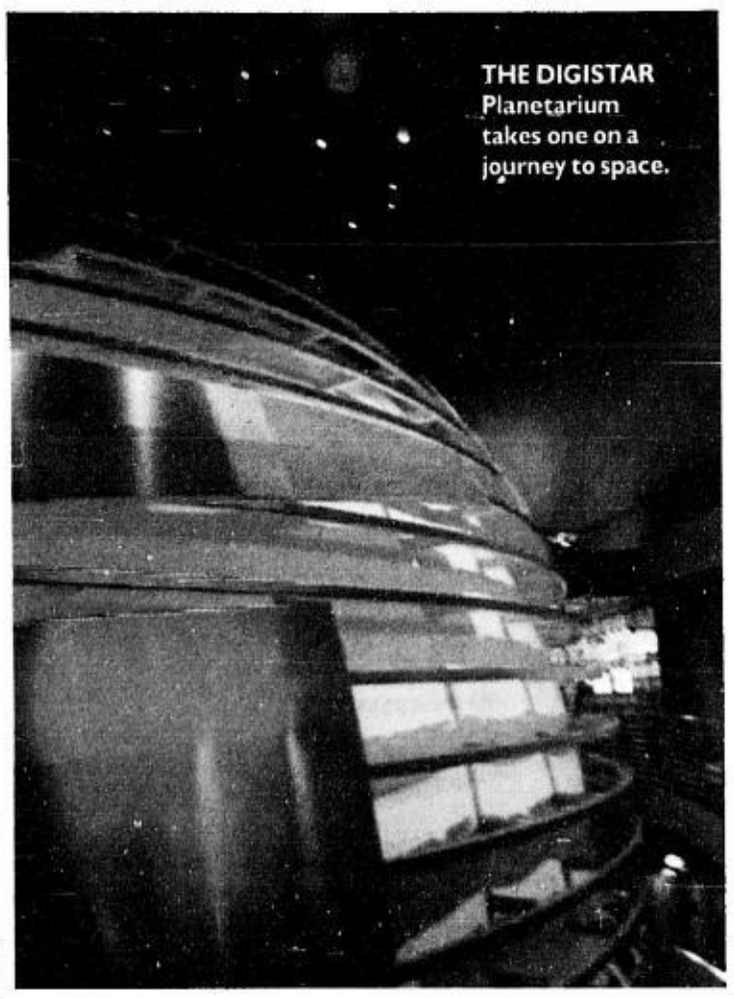
Bruises heal with time. A scraped knee forms into a scar that could easily be passed off as the result of a far more serious struggle. Selfishness, as I would eventually understand, is a part of human nature that goes beyond hoarding finger-sized tubes of plastic balloon and bundles of sour lollipops.

But the figure of the clown—garish and eerie—continued to strike a different kind of terror in me even in later years. Even on the eve of my tenth birthday party, when I peeked into the guest room and found a pudgy man, half-dressed in a yellow jumpsuit. He stood in front of the wide mirror, his wrinkled brow dripping with sweat, one hand trembling with the eyeliner.

Slowly, I backed away, and closed the door as quietly as possible.

E-mail the author at ry.fern@gmail.com

Science center by the bay



THE DIGISTAR Planetarium takes one on a journey to space.

THE SM SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTER AT the SM Mall of Asia seeks to educate young people on advances in science and technology. It is located at the south side of the Entertainment Building.

Visitors are welcomed by Tagi, the center's own robot.

Flashing floor lights trace the path leading to the SM Science Discovery Center's dazzling attractions such as the Image Port, Transportation Nation, Robot, Inc. (Robot Inc.), Spaceship Earth, Virtual Reef, City's Science Exhibit, Earthquake Simulator(Earthquake Experience) and Digistar Planetarium.

Other galleries: Grossology, Lego Mindstorms, Robotics Center and Media City.

Life Clock is a one-stop information center.

Image Port is a haven for digital photography buffs. Here, high-tech meets fantasy, as you are able transform your digital photos into a dream experience.

You can dress the part in costumes at the play area and chose your background, whether it be a giant lizard, a swarm of bees, or even the Eiffel Tower. The best part is that you can take home copies of your experience in pictures or in CD.

Transport Nation is all about travel. Webcam calls provide a history of trains and ocean liners. Here, one can virtually experience what pilots see on air.

MAGIC and lights at the center of the Virtual Reef

Robot Inc. highlights some of the world's most popular robots such as Astroboy, the star of the first Japanese animated series; Robot 9, from the TV series, "Lost in Space"; and Robby the Robot, which appeared in several movies in the 1950s and 1960s beginning with MGM's "Forbidden Planet" in 1956.

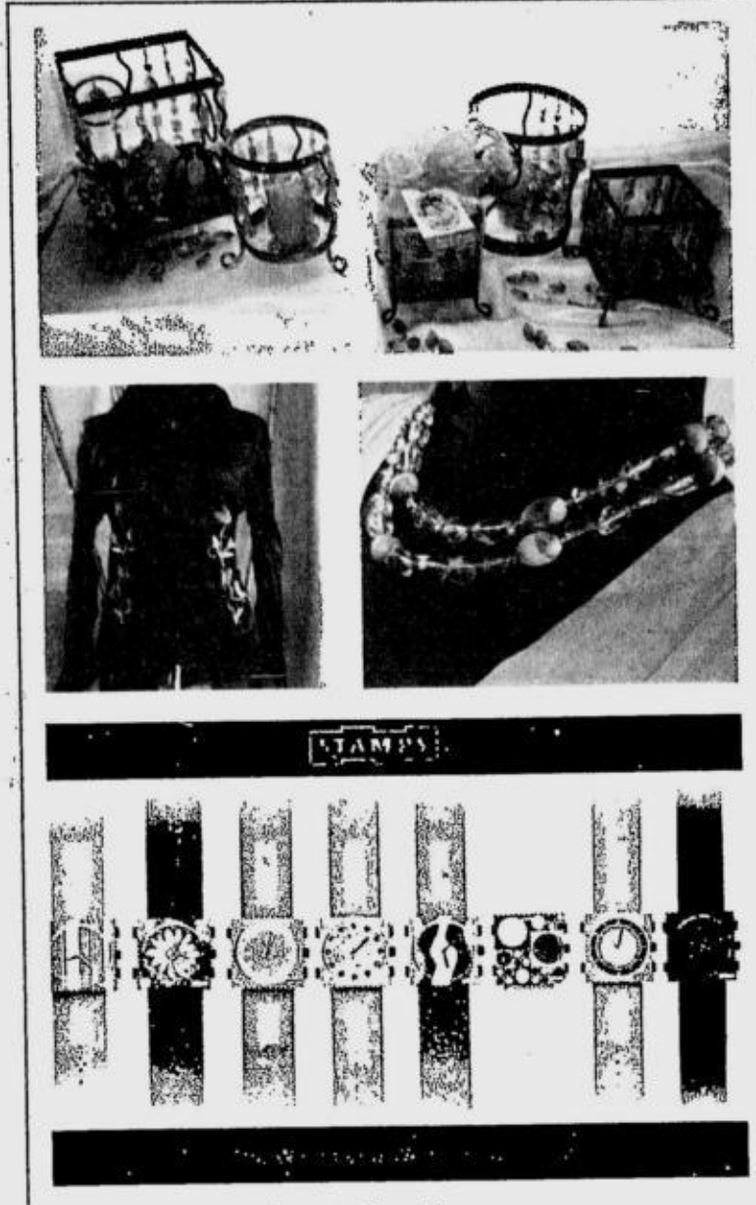
Likewise, guests can also interact with remote-control robots, animated by the center's own Spiderbots through joysticks.

Virtual Reef highlights the marine life of the Philippines. Guests are transported to life under the sea. They experience vicariously the shimmer of light under the water, the sounds of ocean echo, and bubbles flowing freely toward the sky.

Virtual Reef has an aquarium made up of light and magic, filled with coral and fish indigenous to waters to the Philippines.

Other attractions: Spaceship Earth, where guests can feel like they have entered the belly of the universe; Earthquake Simulator, which gives one a real-life feel of tremors; and City Science, which showcases modern architecture and design through scale models of landmarks like the Burj Building in Dubai.

The Digistar Planterium takes one on a journey to space with its interactive full-dome and real time graphics. It also shows movies, such as "The Future is Wild," about an international team of researchers that have been looking into how animals and plants will evolve over the next five to 200 million years, and "Mystery of the Christmas Star," which seeks a scientific explanation to the Star of Bethlehem which the Magi followed.



Bag that graphic look

BRATPACK IS ALL ABOUT FUNCTIONALLY hip, indestructible and technologically sound bags.

The global bag distributor's flagship store at Robinsons Place Ermita, designed by award-winning graphic design studio Team Manila, is a burst of vibrant colors and swirling images reflective of an indie-rock-and-roll lifestyle.

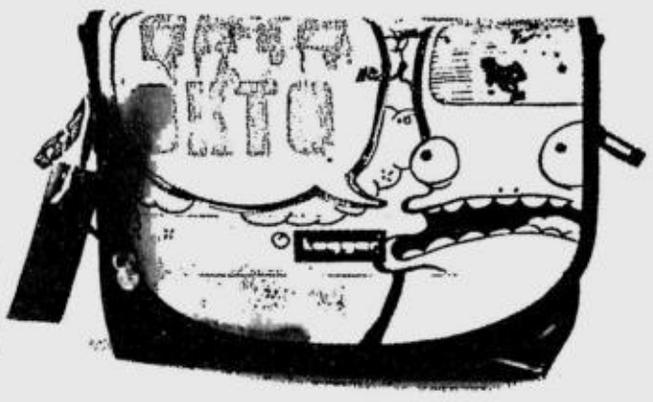
"But what really give these bags star quality is that they've been remixed by the best Pinoy graphic artists," says Bryan Kong, marketing communications officer.

Graphic design houses like Electrolychee, WeeWillDoodle, 27+20, Collision Theory, Pilipinas Street Plan and Osomundo, gave hip brands JanSport, Tagger and Timbuk2 their new superstar looks as part of BratPack's Graphic Remix Bag line.

Standouts in the wide range of bag designs include the batik-inspired Tagger bag of Osomundo's Abi Dayacap and Rommel Joson, and Electrolychee's quirky creatures on a JanSport SuperBreak.

"Each bag in the Graphic Remix line is unique. First, no two designs are alike. Second, once a design has been made, that's it. We're not going to make the same design twice. BratPack values individuality, so we made sure that you will never bump into someone carrying the same bag," says Kong.

GRAPHIC Remixed Jansport SuperBreak designed by Collision Theory



CLASSIC Messenger Bag from Timbuk2 remixed by Pilipinas Street Plan

BratPack also hold collaborations with schools through art competitions, like the Timbuk2-sponsored Ateneo Art Competition. Maria Kezia Lourdes L. Pormento of AB Social Science bagged top prize with her monster-inspired design on Timbuk2's Classic Messenger bag.

Bratpack has branches at Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM Cagayan de Oro, SM Davao, SM The Block, SM Pampanga, SM Southmall and Ayala Center Cebu.

E-mail bratpack@primergrp.com or visit http://www.bratpack.ph.

Rock and retro flair

TOPSHOP'S AUTUMN/WINTER 2007 collection offers dark pieces that carry bold and futuristic detailing.

Anti-retro metallic dresses are pleated or quilted. Spray-on, high-waisted skinny trousers in coated metallics with zips and studs sit with much softer maiden-like, loose-fitting, embellished satin dresses. They come in matte and rich, high-shine textures.

Large, heavy weight accessories have straps and belted fastenings.

The Halston line is a mix of 1940s inspirations from sexy, draped silk-jersey and crepe maxi-length, all-in-one playsuits to tailored A-line skirts, very high-waisted, side-leg trousers and checked woolen capes.

Sophisticated, tie-neck satin and chiffon blouses have pin-tucked, frilled yolks and puffed shoulder details. Faded Deco-style clutches come with strappy metallic platforms.

The Groupie trend is sexy, with a nod towards '70s glam-rock styling: Wet-look, spray-on leggings or stone-wash drainpipe jeans are paired with motif tees and cropped, punk-inspired studded leather biker jackets, or monochrome fur and shearling coats. Dark colors are highlighted by metallics, pinks and chalk whites.

The look of Scandinavia is 1970s folk-inspired, homespun knits and casual shapes in dark organic prints.

Crepe and knitted dresses with square, embroidered necklines are layered with ruched woolen leggings. Embroidered peasant tunics carry modern tonal block-prints, while high-waisted trousers worn with soft polo neck jumpers have a relaxed fit. Soft patchwork satchels, wedge shoes and fine jewelry add a soft finish.

Gamine offers androgynous silhouettes softened with feminine detailing.

Oversized boyfriend coats and bomber jackets in dark checks and belted cardigans are worn with dark, narrow-leg jeans or over short mini dresses.

Vintage lace blouses with French collars and pussy-bow detailing are soft in texture.

Grays and charcoals are lifted by lilacs, reds, and royal blues worked into checks, while berets, knitted beanies, long scarves and square-toe patent pumps provide a beatnik feel.

Robinsons Specialty Stores, Inc. is the exclusive franchisee of Topshop, Wallis, Warehouse, Topman, and Dorothy Perkins in the Philippines.

RED patent trench coat and charcoal zip-down boots

Yuletide bazaar

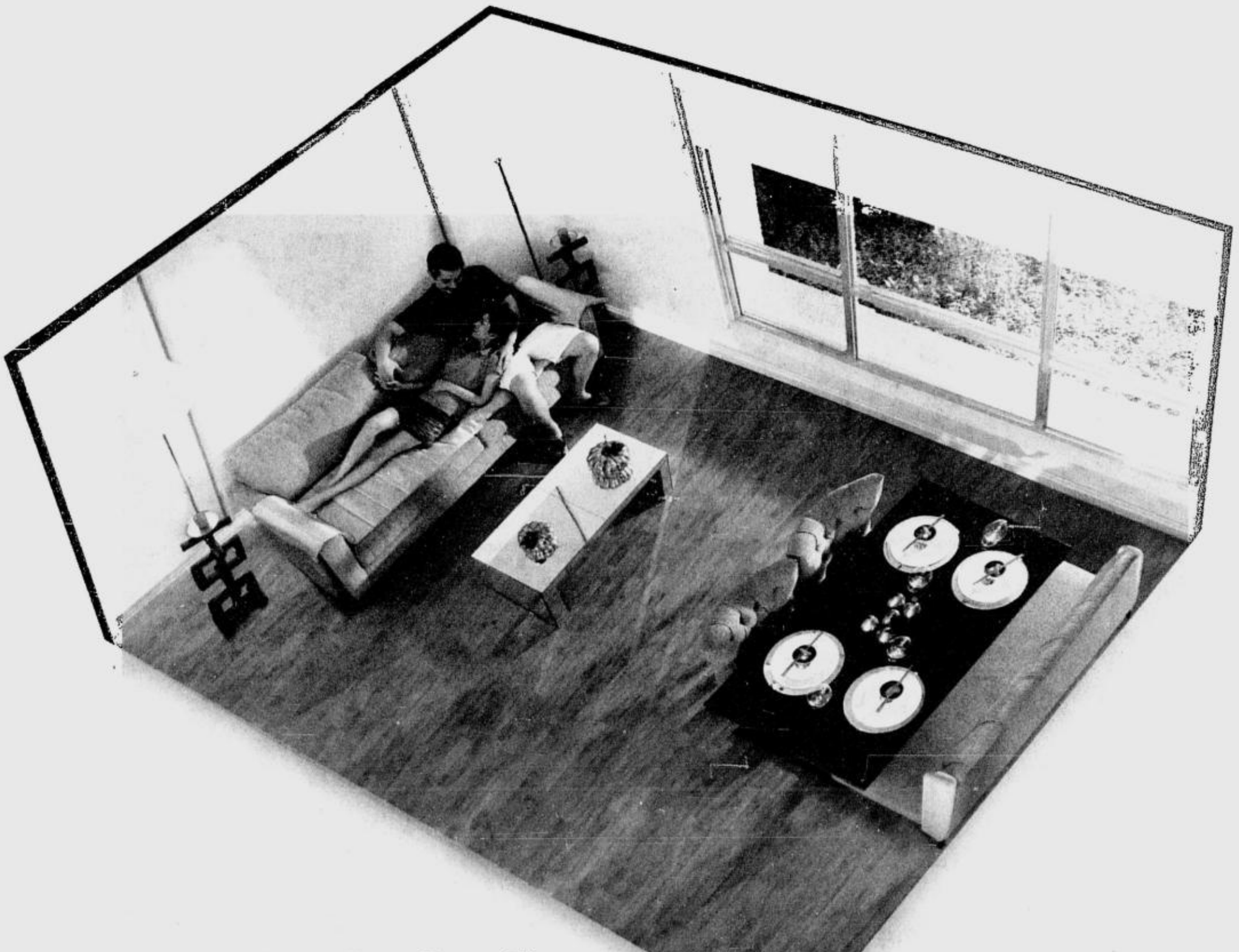
BE AT THE 7TH NOEL DISCOVERY BAZAAR AND CHRISTmas Shopping Expo and experience shopping at its best!

The bazaar runs Nov. 21-25, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., at the World Trade Center. Aside from fashion necessities, it also offers home decor, novelty items, and foodie treats from over 400 concessionaires.

There's more: Catch the exclusive live performance of the international cast of Up With People, watch fashion shows, and try new recipes for the Noche Buena with cooking demonstrations by the Century Culinary Circle.

The GMA Kapuso Artists have set up celebrity booths, with proceeds from fashion auctions going to the beneficiaries of GMA Kapuso Foundation's Give-A-Gift Alay sa Batang Pinoy, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation and the Associate Missionaries of Assumption Foundation.

Call 6870654, 6873292 or e-mail noelbazaars @gmail.com.



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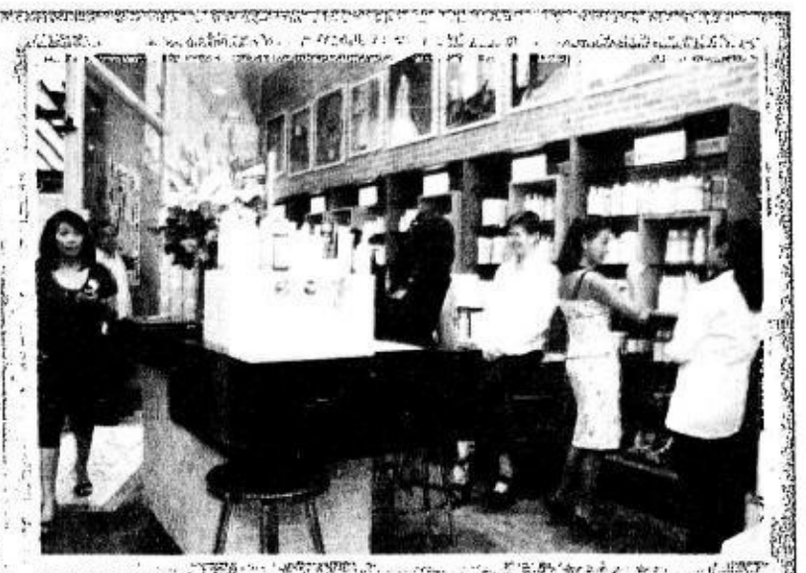

ASSORTED cleansers in a row, Kiehl's Lip Balm #1, and (above) customers checking out the best products for themselves

Ready to kill for Kiehl's

Text by Bianca Consunji
Photos by Ryan Fernandez

THE BRAND IS NOT A NEW NAME in the Philippines; for several years, people have been reading about Kiehl's Since 1851 in various magazines and broadsheets.

(Astute readers who pay attention to fashion shoot credits would have noticed that nearly all the Shu Uemura makeup artists worked with hairstylists from Kiehl's, although the brand was not yet locally available).

Sometimes, the articles gave false alarms of the store's allegedly impending presence—some unsuspecting writers just said that Kiehl's products were available in Greenbelt, which led to panicked shoppers posting frantic notes online, asking where the Kiehl's Manila store really was.

But this is no false alarm: Kiehl's really is available in Manila. Beauty junkies can now get their fix of the brand's star products, such as Lip Balm #1, Crème de Corps lotion, Blue Astringent Herbal Lotion and Ultimate Strength Hand Salve.

According to Elizabeth Lamont, vice president for international development of the brand, the long wait for the store opening was well worth it.

"It took a long while, but we saw that there were enough people who wanted the brand to come to the Philippines," she said. "And we always take direction from our customers. We heard that our Hong Kong and Singapore stores were magnets for customers in Southeast Asia, and people from the Philippines were always asking when a branch was finally opening in Manila."

Kiehl's Manila shop is a cozy little nook nestled in the main opening of the still-unfinished Greenbelt 5, looking just like the stores found in New York with its old-fashioned brick finish. "It's like a little Manhattan in Manila," Lamont said.

KIEHL'S baby line

Free samples

First-time customers (as well as faithful followers) will be glad to know Kiehl's Manila will not scrimp on free samples. If you're not sure about purchasing a certain product, you can always ask Kiehl's beauty advisers for help, as well as a sample packet of the item.

GREENBELT 5 store

"What really sets us apart is the service that the brand offers," Lamont said. "It's all about experiencing the product. Sampling is part of that experience—we want customers to make the decision at their own pace."

She added, "We would rather make a friend than a sale."

Longtime followers of the brand will finally be able to stock up on old favorites as well as new offers. While not everything will be carried at once—such as the Kiehl's pet line—there will surely be more than enough of the brand's star products.

This holiday season, for instance, Kiehl's will be carrying flavored variants of Lip Balm #1 (in mint, pear and cranberry), as well as gift sets of bath products and men's toiletries. The brand has also introduced to the local market Kiehl's White Brightening Botanical, Centella Skin-Calming Cleanser and Yerba Mate lines.

Philanthropy

The official opening of the Greenbelt 5 store was greeted with confetti and fanfare as some 500 guests came. However, aside from the usual partying, the brand managed to inject a note of seriousness to its celebration. Shu Uemura and Kiehl's Since 1851's, Tina Tinio, who flew in from Singapore for the event, announced the brand's tie-up with Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) for various philanthropic projects.

CONSULTING with beauty advisers

KIEHL'S VP Elizabeth Lamont

Representatives from the Philippine Christian Foundation, Childhope Asia and SOS Children's Villages Philippines received the HSBC grants amounting to $225,000 at the launch party.

"Like HSBC, Kiehl's is committed to improving the local community," said Mark Watkinson, president and CEO of HSBC. "Strengthening our local community ties through philanthropic partnerships is a critical element of our corporate responsibility objectives."

While the long wait is finally over, the long lines won't be, so if you've been dying to try out the brand's iconic products, run, don't walk, to see what all the fuss is about.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

ERNSVILLE

LAZY Susan, Cebu winner

HOTSI Patootsie

College band from Tacloban wins in Soundskool finals

KARASAKHILL52, Cebu winner

YOUTH Rebellion, Cebu winner

SIXTY-FIVE BANDS SET OUT TO PURSUE their dream of becoming the next Nescafé Soundskool winner and soon, only 13 remained.

And this lean and mean group of the country's best collegiate bands slugged it out in the Nescafé Soundskool grand finals last Nov. 10 at the Ultra.

Nescafé Soundskool toured the entire country in search of this year's most outstanding group of young musical talents. It held eliminations in the cities of Davao (Sept. 23), Cebu (Sept. 30), Baguio (Oct. 7) and Manila (Oct. 13).

Emerging as the most outstanding in the Mindanao regional eliminations were Peaches of STI College-Davao, Blue Ozone of St. Vincent's College-Dipolog and Novelista Pasta of Capitol University-Cagayan de Oro.

In the Visayas elimination leg, all three wining bands came from Tacloban City. This leg saw Youth Rebellion of the Asian Development Foundation College, Lazy Susan, also of the Asian Development Foundation College, and Karasakhill52 of Eastern Visayas State University outclass bands from other provinces.

The Luzon elimination winners were Even of University of Baguio, Zoom Zoom Lunacy of Union Christian College and Jam Disposition of University of the Cordilleras.

HYMN of Siren

Completing the group of 13 finalists were the four winners of the Greater Manila Area elimination leg. They are SOTC of University of the East, Hotsi Patootsi of Asia Pacific College, Hymn of Siren of Ateneo de Manila University, and Ernsville of University of Asia and the Pacific.

Each winning band took home P25,000.

Lazy Susan followed the footsteps of Hilera and Effinboiche, winners of the first two editions of the competition. They bagged the top prize at the grand finals and took home a staggering P250,000 in the finals. Nescafé will also award P150,000 worth of full-band setup to their school.

For more information, check out www.nescafé.com.ph.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Ai Ai gives her greatest performance

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

COMEDY CONCERT QUEEN **AI AI DE** las Alas is all agog for her biggest concert to date, "AiAiay... The Greatest Performance of My Life," at the Big Dome on Nov. 16, 8 p.m. with special guests **Sarah Geronimo, Pilita Corrales** and **Aegis**. (For tickets, call 911-5555.)

When Ai guests in concerts of other artists, she steals the show even without intending to. Her unique way of ad-libbing sets her apart from the rest. She veers away from the repertoire, so watching her is always an unpredictable delight.

Before she gives her greatest performance, I asked Ai what her greatest fear and achievement are and who her greatest love is. "I'm afraid of the unknown and heights. My biggest achievement is 'Tanging Ina' the movie and being able to send my kids to good schools on my own," she revealed. "My greatest love is my ex-husband **Miguel**."

The former saleslady who assisted me when I was buying infant stuff was really destined for greater things. Now Ai still sells.

AI AI/ G2

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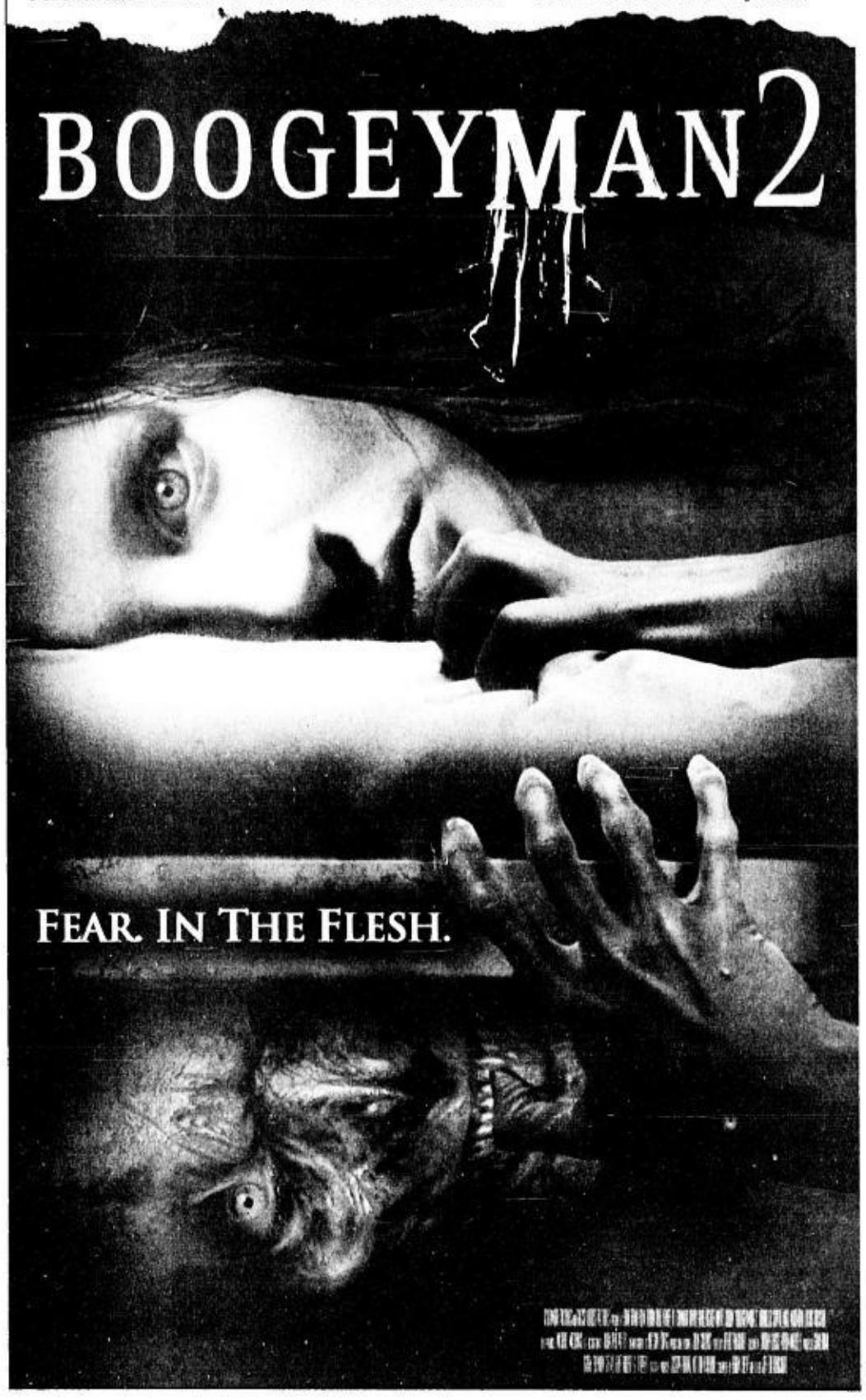

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See posters for details.

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Ai Ai...

From page G1

Every concert she does here or abroad is sold-out.

No comment

Cristine Reyes sent me this text in reaction to my item about her tiff with **Carlene Aguilar** over **Dennis Trillo**: "Sorry for my late reply. When you texted me about the issue, it was a difficult time. I just want to keep quiet about it because there are a lot of things that have to be discussed which people won't understand anyway. So I'd rather not say anything to worsen the situation."

Poor girl! If we could only hear what she cannot say.

Just friends

Rachelle Ann Go utters the worn out show biz line "Friends *lang kami*" when asked about the real score between her and **Jed Madela**. But just as I wrote yesterday, someone close to Jed insists that the two singers are secret lovers. It's the prerogative of Rachelle and Jed to deny but their hearts know the truth.

So where does her ex-BF **Christian Bautista** fit into the picture? "A breakup is too personal an issue to be used as publicity so I'll just be silent about the whole thing," said Shin (Rachelle's pet name).

AI AI/ G4

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
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	4 THE GAME PLAN	5 SUPER BAD	6 THE GAME PLAN	7 BOOGEYMAN 2
GREENBELT 1	1 ONE MORE CHANCE		2 BEOWULF	
GREENBELT 3	1 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS	
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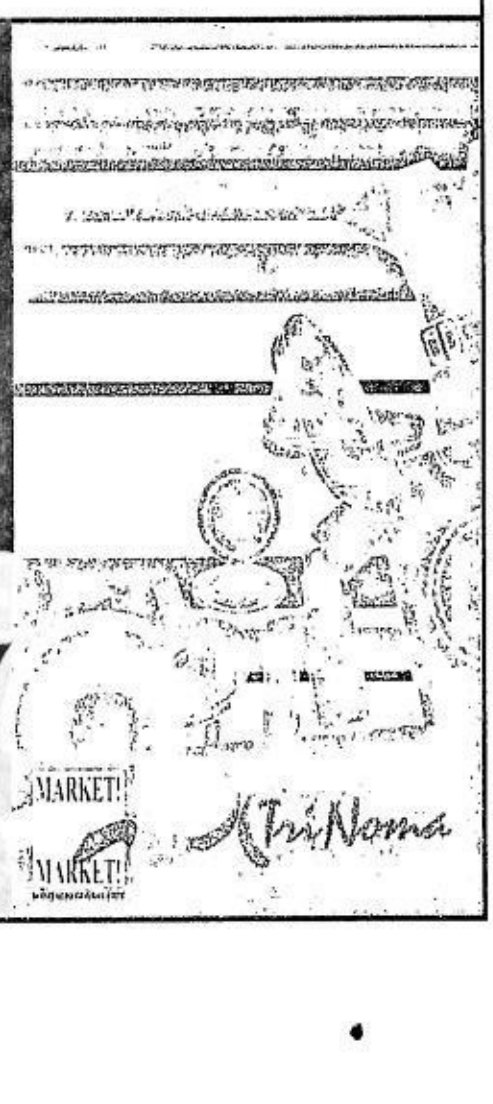

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2 BEOWULF	7 GAME PLAN
3 THE NANNY DIARIES	8 indieSine: PAIN THINGS
4 BOOGEYMAN 2	9 WE OWN the NIGHT
5 ONE MORE CHANCE	10 LIONS for LAMBS

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4 BOOGEYMAN 2	8 30 DAYS of NIGHT LIONS for LAMBS

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 SUPERBAD

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 THE NANY DIARIES

STA. ROSA — LIPA

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2 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 HALLOWEEN
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4 RENDITION / BALLS of FURY	

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4 HALLOWEEN	4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
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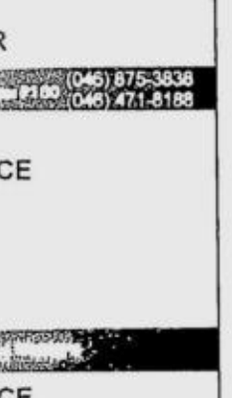
6 indieSine: SINUNGALING na BUWAN	6 GHOST SUN

SINUNGALING na BUWAN
by Ed Lejano



3 loves, 3 broken hearts. This offbeat "dramedy" begins when their affairs abruptly end. A weather reporter gets dumped by her older, married lover and turns to alcohol and horoscopes for escape. A radio dubber is left by his lover for another woman & becomes obsessed with his idol, a 70's pop diva. With its intricate plot, their separate stories converge during the performance of a play-within-a-film & climaxes with unexpected twists, linking one another in surprising ways.

CINEMALAYA

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod November 14 to 20

Ai Ai gives her...

From page G2

Oh, well... some things are better left unsaid and some questions are better left unanswered when feelings are deeply felt.

Welcome relief

My endless thanks to **Piolo Pascual** and **Sam Milby** for the kind words they said about me in "D Buzz." Their vote of confidence is a welcome adrenaline shot.

Cool CD

DJ non-pareil **Anton Ramos'** new CD Diskoteca (MCA Music) is on repeat mode in my player. Listening to it never fails to put me in a jolly mood. The 14-track album contains cool tunes like "Keep on Jumpin'" by **Todd Terry** with **Martha Wash** and **Jocelyn Brown**, "Let the Beat Hit 'Em" by **ASBO** featuring **Katherin Ellis**, and "The Game" by **Kid Crème** featuring **Bashiyra** among others.

Anton's ability to feel the crowd's mood and put together

Ai Ai/ G6

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SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (cccm) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 LUST CAUTION
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 LUST CAUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (cccm) (cccm) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 (cccm) HALLOWEEN
4 BEOWULF

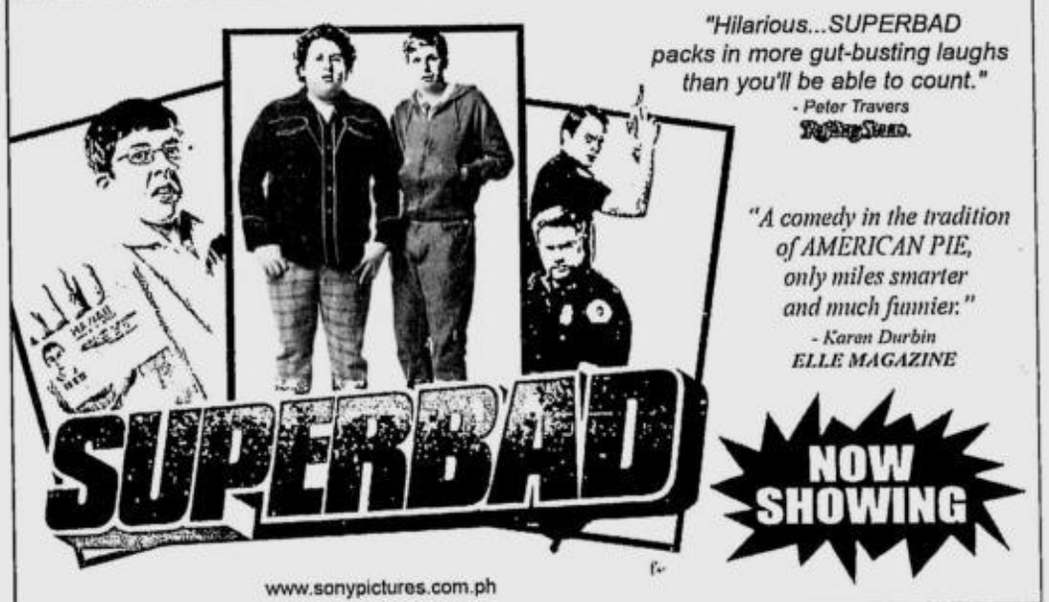
Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (cccm) SUPER BAD
2 (cccm) BEOWULF
3 (cccm) THE NANNY DAIRIES
4 (cccm) ONE MORE CHANCE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SUPER BAD
2 (cccm) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (cccm) BEOWULF
4
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (cccm) RESERVED
3 (cccm) RESERVED
4 RESERVED
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 (cccm) HALLOWEEN
Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 (cccm) (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
4 (cccm) HALLOWEEN
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (cccm) LIONS FOR LAMBS
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL
Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (cccm) RESIDENT EVIL
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 (cccm) RENDITION
Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (cccm) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PLEASE CALL
3 (cccm) BEOWULF
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 SUPER BAD
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SUPER BAD
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



Araneta Center
araneta center.net
Gateway
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gatewaycineplex10.com
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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

BEOWULF 11:30 / 1:00 / 2:00 / 3:30 4:30 / 6:00 / 7:00 / 8:30 / 9:50	ONE MORE CHANCE	BOOGEYMAN 2 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
SUPERBAD 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	GAMEPLAN	NANNY DIARIES 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	LIONS FOR LAMBS 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	30 DAYS OF NIGHT
		BEOWULF 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

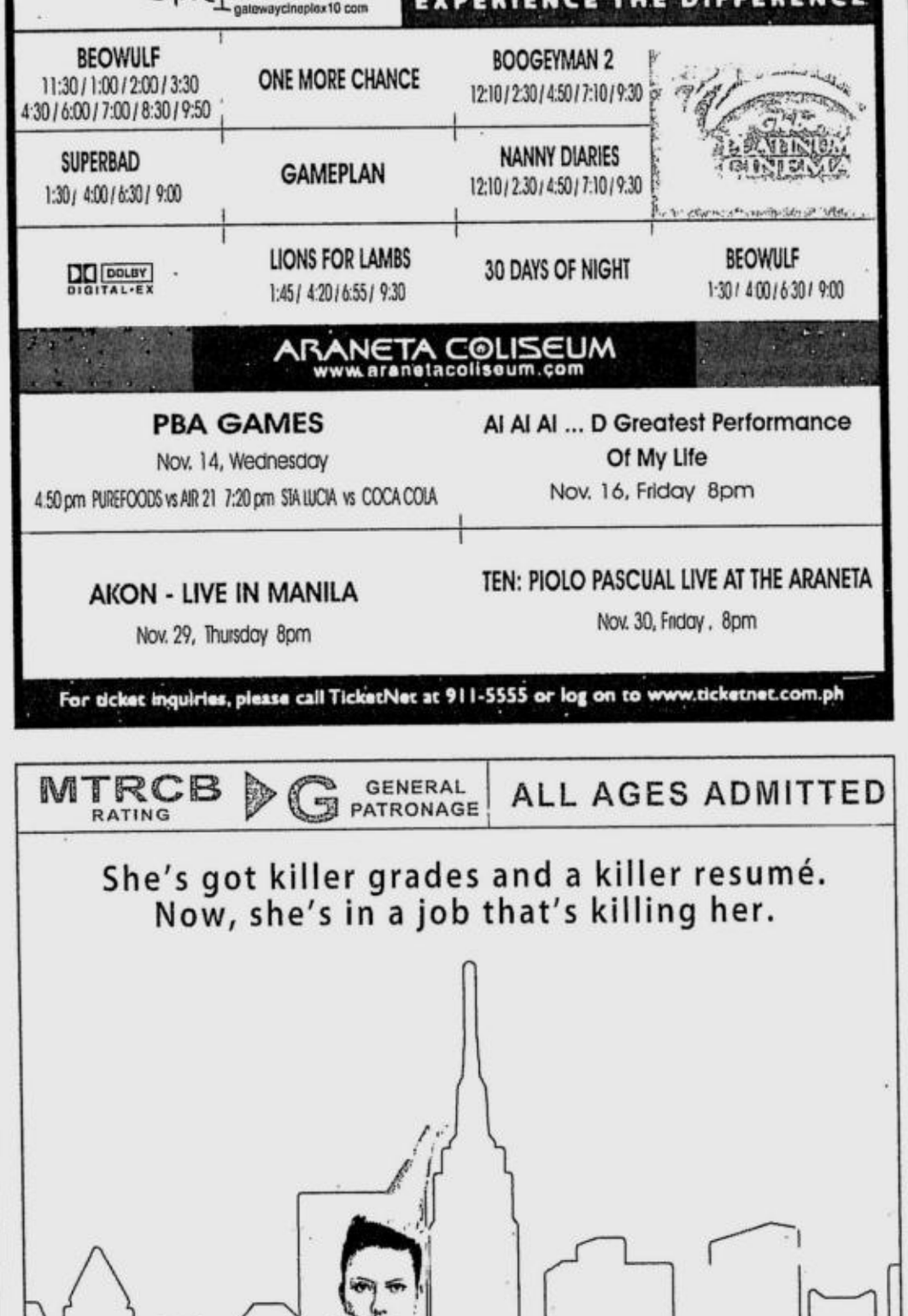
PBA GAMES
Nov. 14, Wednesday
4:50 pm PUREFOODS vs AIR 21 7:20 pm STA LUCIA vs COCA COLA

Al Al Al ... D Greatest Performance Of My Life
Nov. 16, Friday 8pm

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov. 29, Thursday 8pm

TEN: PIOLO PASCUAL LIVE AT THE ARANETA
Nov. 30, Friday, 8pm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph



SHANG CINEPLEX
1 BEOWULF
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
2 THE GAME PLAN
MTRCB GP
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
PREMIERE THEATRE
SUPER BAD (R-18)
2:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
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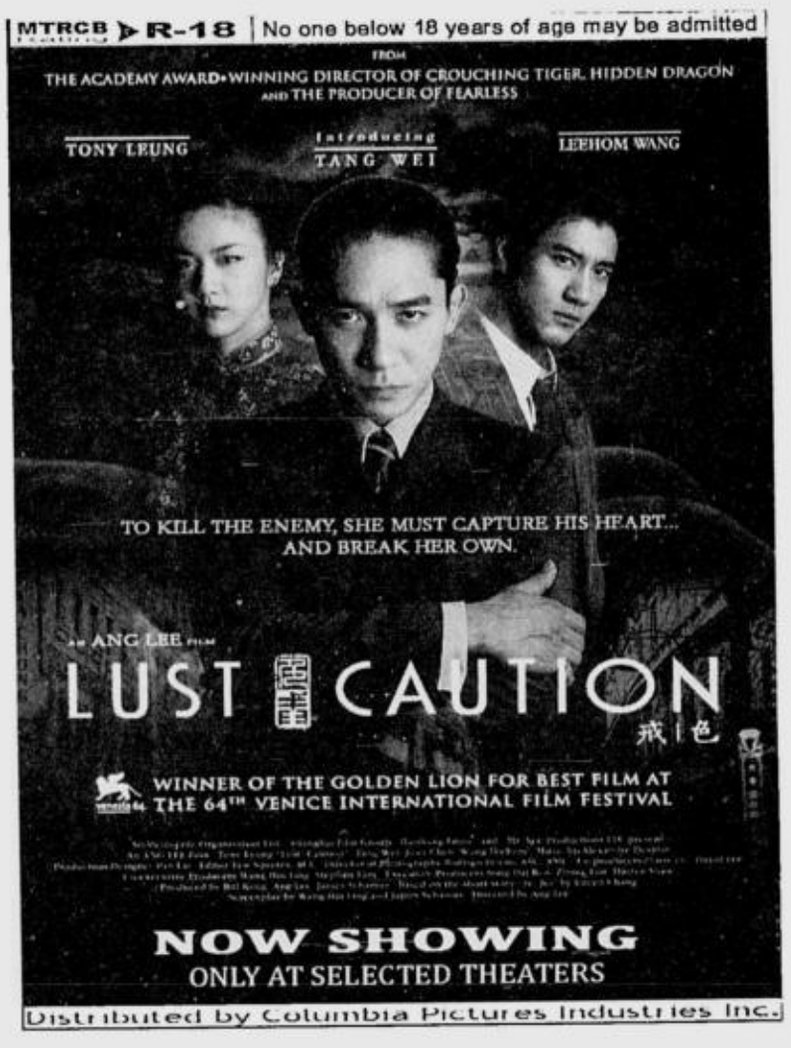
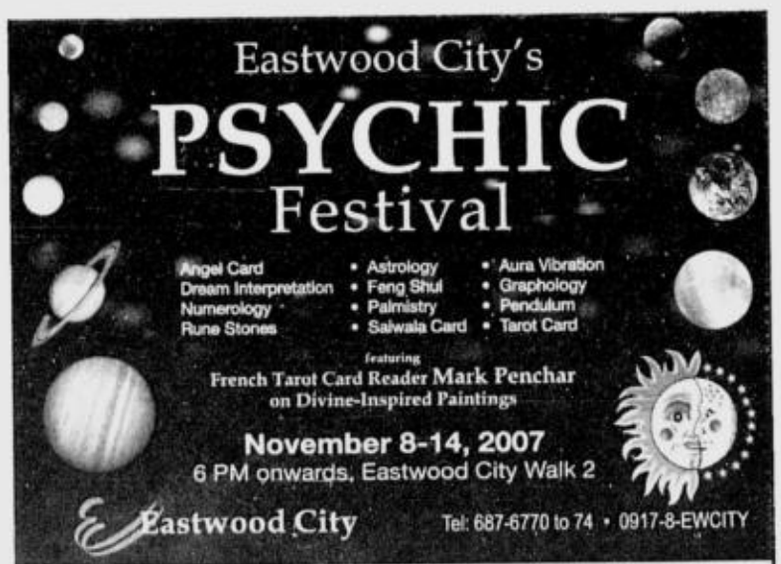
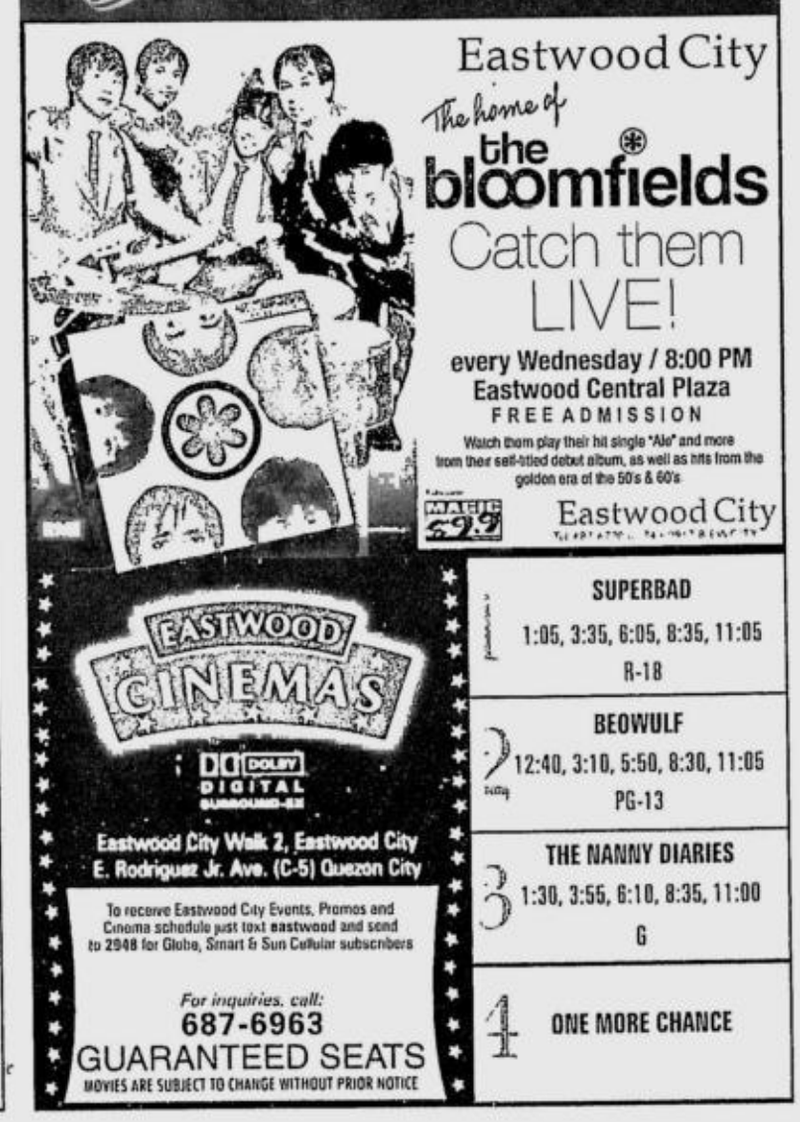
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza







Iza Calzado prefers Bembol Roco over Ken Zhu or Jesse Bradford

IZA Calzado

By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

RUSHES

LONDON—ACTRESS ANGELINA Jolie signed autographs and chatted with fans on Sunday in London's Leicester Square during the British premier of the movie "Beowulf."

Director Robert Zemeckis brings the Norse legend of "Beowulf" to life with technology similar to what he used on "The Polar Express" to capture live actors whose performances are then digitally animated. Jolie plays Beowulf's vile foe, Grendel's mother.

The film has scenes of graphic violence, and Jolie said: "I think it's remarkable that it has the rating it has. It's quite an extraordinary film and some of it shocked me." *AP*

Like a stripper's name

NEW YORK—Alicia Keys, whose new album is titled "As I Am," says that when she was trying to choose a professional name, she went through a dictionary and stopped on the word "wild."

She then asked her mother how Alicia Wild sounded.

"She said, 'It sounds like you're a stripper,'" Keys said.

After that, she decided to use Keys.

"It's like the piano keys. And it can open so many doors," said the singer born Alicia Augello-Cook. *AP*

KC Concepcion

* * *

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Carlene Aguilar whispering to Cristine Reyes, as reported by a "Startalk" insider:

"Hindi ka mahal ni Dennis (Trillo). *Pampisikal lang ang habol sa yo."* (She must be so gutsy to do that.)

Taking her own sweet time

KC Concepcion on working full-time in show biz:

"May 2008 *pa naman. Tingnan natin. Marami pa naman akong* interests. *Marami pa akong gustong gawin. Lahat naman yon sa* media *konektado." (Mukhang matalino ang batang ito.)*

KC on her dad Gabby Concepcion:

"I'm inspired by the way he excels in different professions...*Pinasukan niya ang* real estate and *sobrang galing ang nangyari sa kanya.* Excellent *siya sa lahat ng ginagawa niya ngayon."(Ano pa yung iba, isa lang yon, ha?)*

VILMA Santos

Swimsuit competition

Marian Rivera on a scene in "Marimar" where she wore a two-piece bikini to compete with Katrina Halili's revealing swimsuit:

"Hindi naman siguro patalbugan. Si Katrina *kasi may sarili siyang galaw. Parang iba kami ng* personality. *At alam ko lang, parehas kaming nakakatulong sa* show. *Sobrang na-te-*tense *talaga ako. Di kasi ako sanay mag-*two piece (bikini) *eh." (Aba hija, masanay ka na, artista ka pa naman.)*

Aging Sex Bomb

Rochelle Pangilinan on talk she was insecure about the rise of new Sex Bomb dancer talents:

"Wala naman. Kasi ang feel *namin pa-*graduate *na kami. Hindi naman kami habambuhay na ganito ang trabaho. Siyempre nag-iisip kami ng ibang* stage." *("Ibang* stage"? *Baka ibang* "field.")

Show biz itch

Vilma Santos craving for a show biz comeback:

"Parang gusto kong ibalik yung show *kong* 'Vilma!' *eh. Na-mi-*miss *ko talaga.* Number one *sa akin* is family. Number two is definitely as a public servant. Show business *ang me-dyo* third. *Ngayon pag medyo okey-okey na-man* ang family... smooth *na ang takbo pag-dating sa pagsisilbi, kahit isang pelikula. Nakaka-*miss *na po ang mag-*shooting.

Back to the rumor mill...

Regine Velasquez on rumors she's pregnant:

"Eh di maganda. Kung buntis eh di okey. Pero hindi eh. Truly."

'My ghost'

Gretchen Barretto on partner Tony Boy Cojuangco:

"Tony is always with me *kaya lang para siyang multo, hindi nagpapakita. Ayaw niyang malaman ng tao na nandyan siya dahil nahihiya siya. Hindi siya komportable masyado. Tawag ko nga sa kanya,* 'my ghost.'"

Non-presence

Alfie Lorenzo on Piolo Pascual's presence or non-presence in ward Judy Ann Santos' life and career:

"Wala na siya sa buhay namin eh. Kasi ako, pinagdaanan ko maraming artista... Pagdating kay Piolo, *dinidistansya na namin si Juday para di na magamit si* Juday *para ma-pag-usapan. Ngayon binanggit siya* (Piolo) *kasi meron siyang* concert *sa* Nov. 30. *Panoorin niyo ha? Kasi manonood si Lolit."* (That's entertainment.)

Hoping against hope?

Diether Ocampo on the possibility that former girlfriend Kristine Hermosa and Oyo Sotto are already an item following several public appearances together:

"Hindi ko talaga alam. I just hope *na* I'm prepared for that. Right now, I'm not... *Mas maganda marinig ko sa kanila mismo."*

Oyo on Diether's reaction:

"Ayokong mang-apak ng tao. Sabi ko nga, kung may masama akong intensyon, itatago ko yon. Di ako lalabas sa public *na makikita kaming dalawa ni* Kristine. *Kung may ganoon man, wala naman siguro dapat ika-selos. Eh ayoko naman kasi makialam talaga sa buhay nila kung ano man yung nangyayari."*

Star-struck

Iza Calzado on getting star-struck with Bembol Roco, amid her pairings with international heartthrobs Jesse Bradford and Ken Zhu:

*"Marami ngang beses na mas na-sa-*starstruck *pa ako sa* local actors *natin.* When I worked with Bembol Roco... *laging nakatitig lang ako sa kanya. Sabi ko,* 'I'm so glad. I was finally given a chance to work with you.' *Talagang yon ang sinabi ko."*

MTRCB PG-13

"BRILLIANTLY WRITTEN."
Larry King

"IMPASSIONED." "COMPELLING."
PeteHammond, *Maxim* — *Empire UK*

"ON-THE-MARK PERFORMANCES by Redford, Cruise and Streep."
Larry King

ROBERT REDFORD MERYL STREEP TOM CRUISE

LIONS FOR LAMBS

NOW SHOWING

OPENING TODAY

Pain Things

Stars Christian Vasquez, Che Ramos, Paolo Villaluna, Michael de Mesa

Directed by Jon Red

A color-blind man struggles to finish a documentary on his idol, a painter. He is later seduced by the woman who lives with his subject. Press notes describe it as "heart-wrenching and mind-boggling." Red's previous works have been featured in various film festivals abroad, including Torino. He was described by an INQUIRER reviewer as "a keen observer of Pinoy body language." Exclusively in IndieSine Robinsons Galleria.

One More Chance

Stars John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay, Maja Salvador, Nikki Gil

Directed by Cathy Garcia-Molina

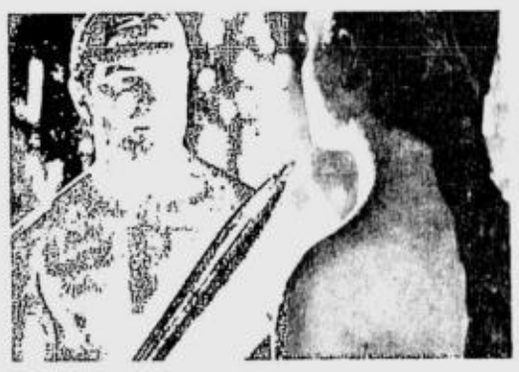
College sweethearts and officemates Popoy (Cruz) and Basha (Alonzo) reach a crossroad in their relationship when the girl decides to try her independence. Drumbeaters insist that this romance-drama allows the John Lloyd and Bea "love team" to tackle "mature roles" for the first time after five movies. "I want to grow as an artist," says Alonzo who also lost weight and posed for a men's mag as part of her reinvention.

Superbad

Stars Jonah Hill, Michael Cera, Seth Rogen, Bill Hader

Directed by Greg Mottola

Before enrolling in separate universities, geeky best buds Seth (Hill) and Evan (Cera) scheme to lose their virginity. Richard Corliss of Time Magazine comments: "Somewhere buried [in this film] is a poignant coming-of-age fable." David Denby of New Yorker concurs: "It combines filthy talk with the most tender, even delicate, emotion." Says Carina Chocano of Los Angeles Times: It's "deliriously smutty ... super cute."



Beowulf

Stars Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, John Malkovich, Angelina Jolie

Directed by Robert Zemeckis

After killing the monster Grendel, mighty warrior Beowulf (Winstone) must slug it out with the beast's vengeful mother (Jolie). For 10 years, "Sandman" author Neil Gaiman and "Pulp Fiction" scriptwriter Roger Avary worked on the big-screen adaptation of this epic poem. Emanuel Levy of emanuellevy.com raves: "It's a magnificent sensorial feast ... seeing it in its 3-D Imax format should become a must-event for film lovers."

The Nanny Diaries

Stars Scarlett Johansson, Laura Linney, Paul Giamatti, Alicia Keys

Directed by Shari Springer Berman, Robert Pulcini

Based on a novel by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, this satire features a spirited nanny (Johansson) who suffers under her haughty boss (Linney). Bill Cometti of BBC opines that "its kicks come from watching the foibles of the über rich." Kirk Honeycutt of The Hollywood Reporter thinks it has "inspired moments ... but leaves you cold." Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun-Times agrees: it's "bland and obvious and comfortable."

Boogeyman 2

Stars Angela Sarafyan, Michael Graziadei, Danielle Savre, Tobin Bell

Directed by Jeff Betancourt

Haunted by childhood trauma, a woman (Savre) checks herself into an asylum—where she is stalked by her parents' killer. Calum Waddell of Fangoria.com points out that "this is no cheap and nasty cash-in." Tristan Sinns of DreadCentral.com disagrees: it's "a textbook slasher with none of the atmospheric elements." A Movieson-line.ca reviewer asks rhetorically: "Why does every horror movie feel the need to have a 'twist' ending?"

GRAND OPENING TODAY!

John Lloyd Cruz Bea Alonzo

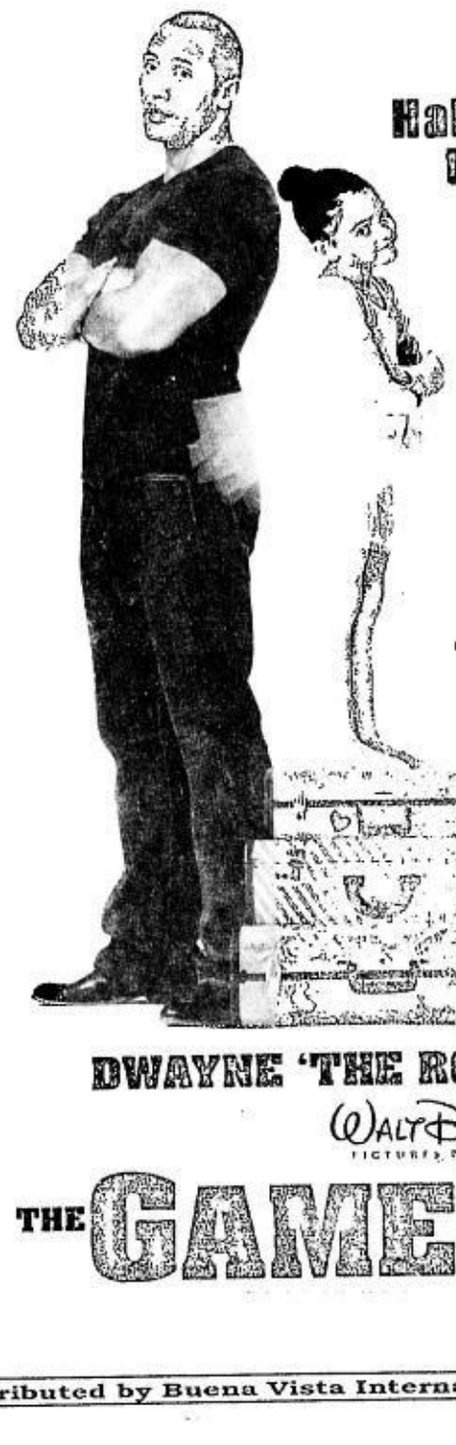
ONE More CHANCE

Directed by CATHY GARCIA-MOLINA

FAXN FAXN

STAR CINEMA ABS-CBN

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating G | All Ages Admitted



DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE GAME PLAN
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

POWER PLANT CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

NANNY DIARIES G	LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13	SUPER BAD R18
ONE MORE CHANCE	BOOGEYMAN 2	BEOWULF PG13

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CINEMA 2 BOOGEYMAN 2 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 R-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 SUPERBAD 11:35, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00 R-18
CINEMA 4 NANNY DIARIES 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 GP
CINEMA 5 BEOWULF 10:45, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

November 16,17,23 & 24,2007	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
November 15, 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
November 20, 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22, 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Nov. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Al Al delas Alas

Ai Ai gives...

From page G4

good music makes him a competent DJ. Bringing this in his CD of club tracks makes "Diskoteca" truly worth dancing to.

'Nars'

Catch a different side of **Jennylyn Mercado, Agot Isidro, Jodi Sta Maria, Jon Avila** and **Coco Martin** in "Nars" (Carl & Carl Productions), which opens on Dec. 12. They portray nurses in one study group who learn the value of family, friendship, dream and mission.

Each character mirrors the aspirations and ambivalence of becoming a nurse abroad. Nursing is the "in" thing these days so this film could not have come at a better time than now.

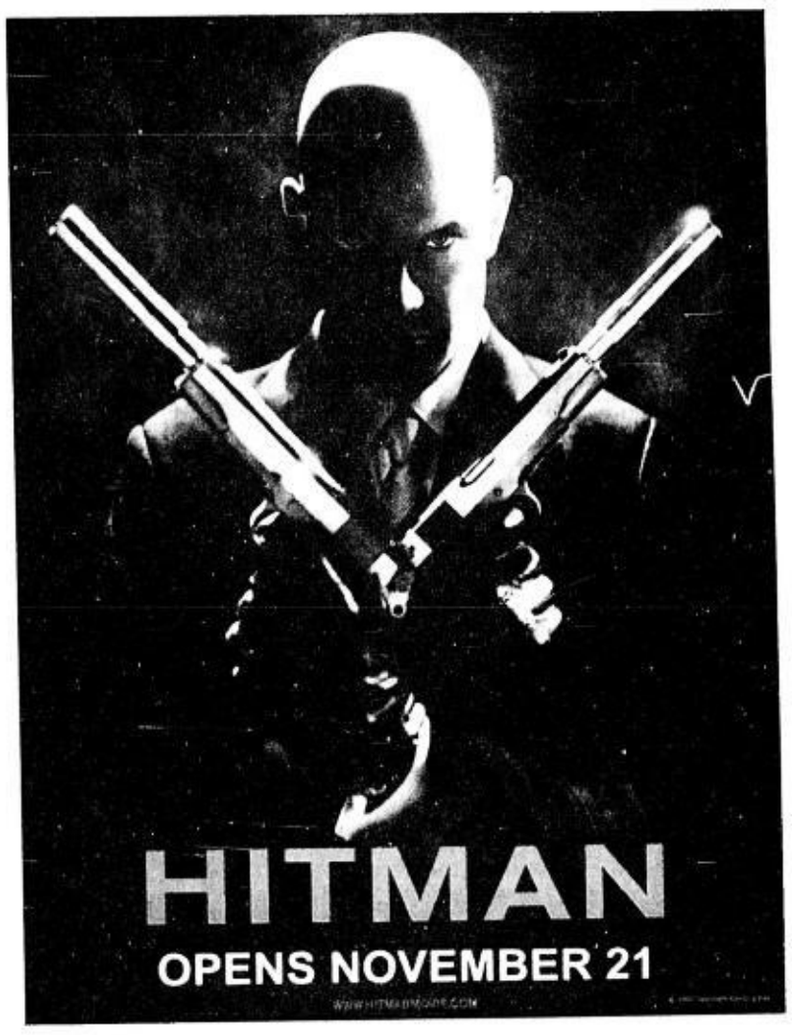
Bumped off

Christine, the *tres charmant* wife of Senator **Chiz Escudero**, was duped by an events venue in Greenhills. She paid them a P20,000 deposit for the baptism bash of their twins on Nov. 25.

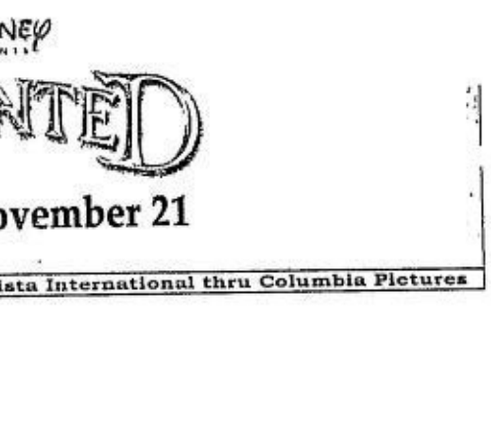
Then all of a sudden, she's told that they have to bump off the baptismal party because of a prior reservation. Why the late notice? I'm sure Chiz won't take this sitting down. He's one who'll always stand up for what's fair and right.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



MTRCB Rating G | All Ages Admitted



WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
ENCHANTED
In Cinemas November 21
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

2ND FLOOR

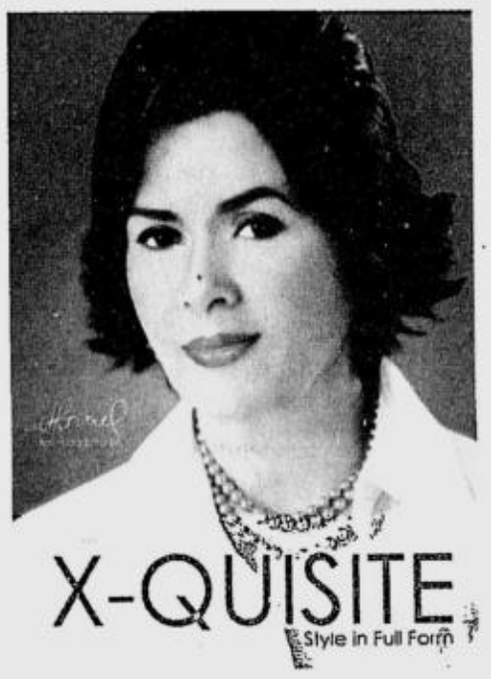
UPPER GROUND FLOOR

2ND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

2ND FLOOR

2ND FLOOR



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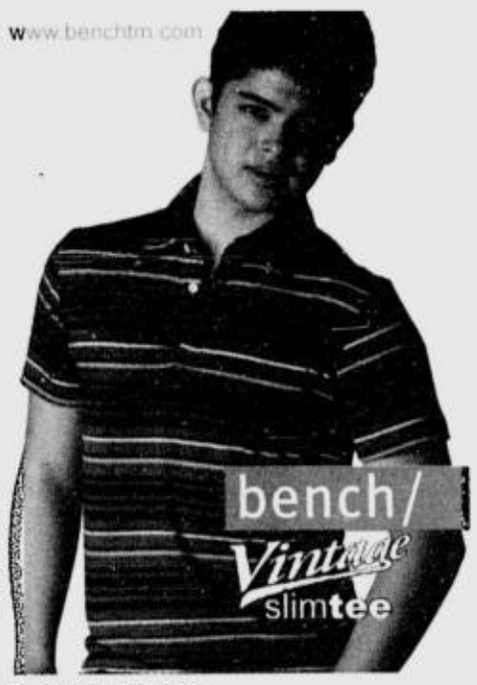

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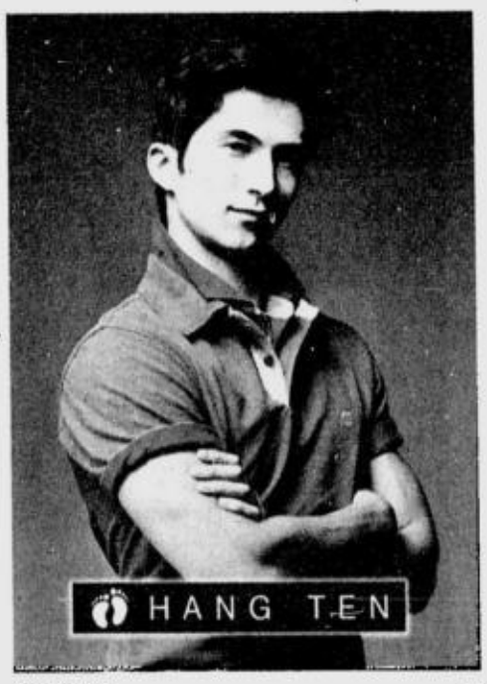

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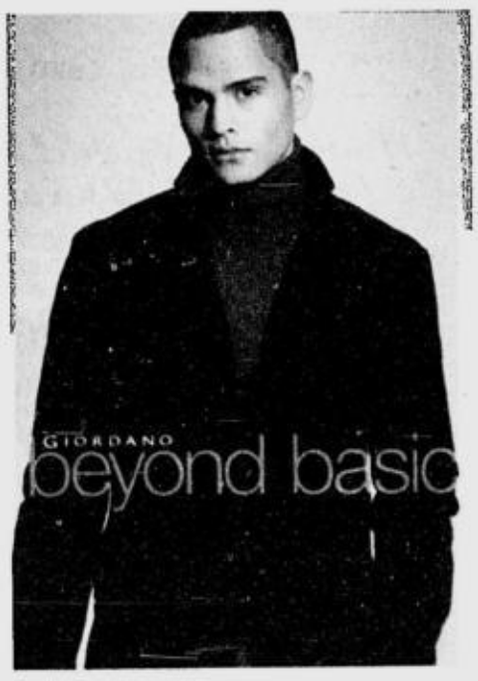

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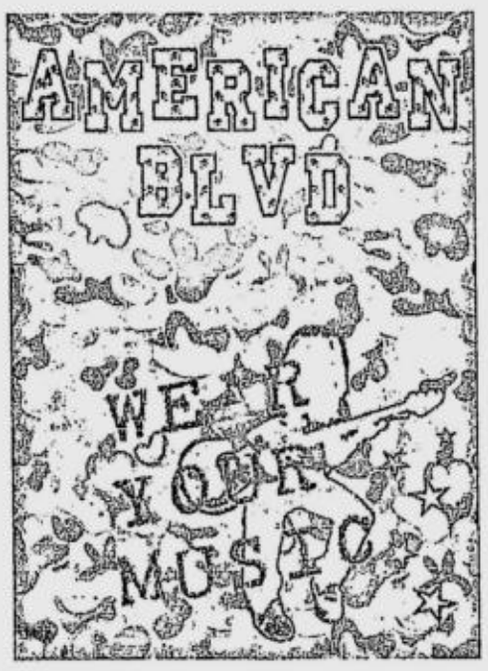

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

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"BUY 1 TAKE 1 PROMO"
PROMO RUNS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2007
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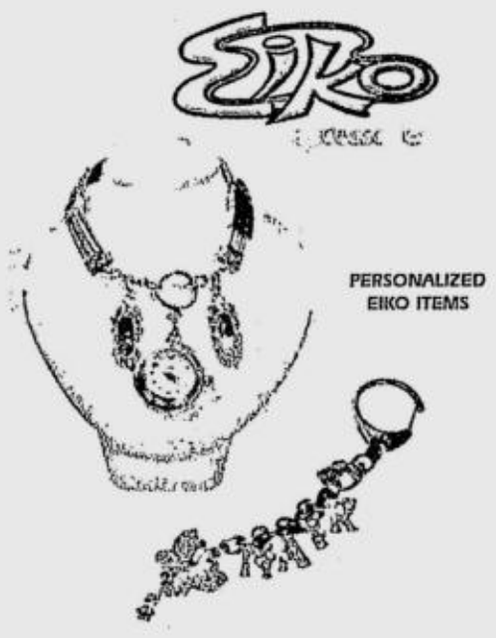
PROMO RUNS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3517, SERIES OF 2007

SM SUPERMALLS

2ND FLOOR



UPPER GROUND FLOOR

2ND FLOOR

CELINE

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|M|ANELS

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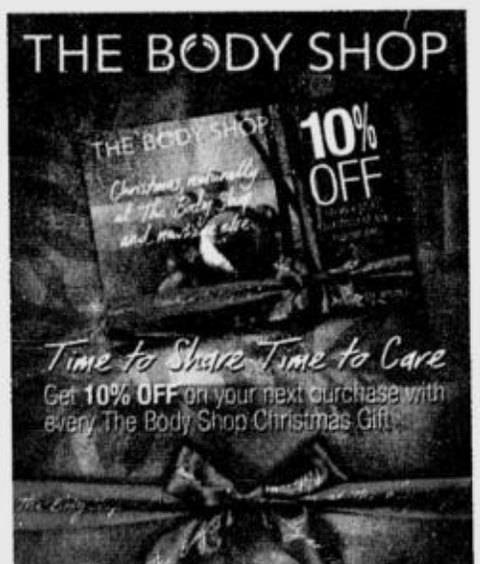
2ND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR



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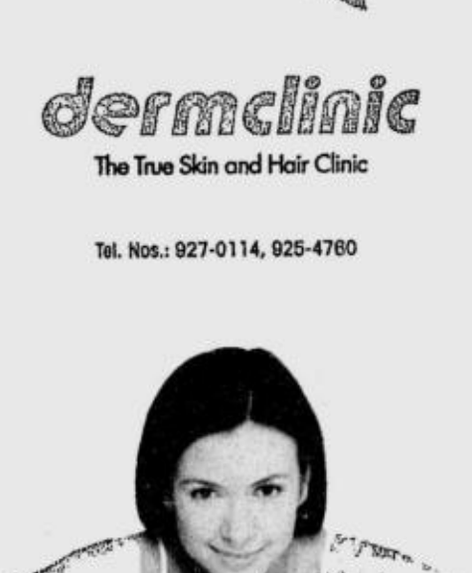
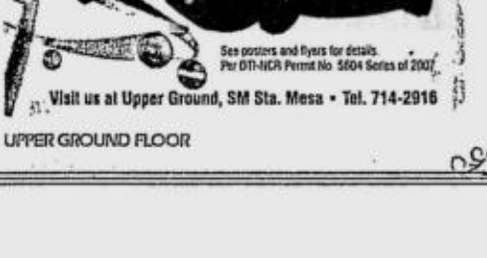


3RD FLOOR



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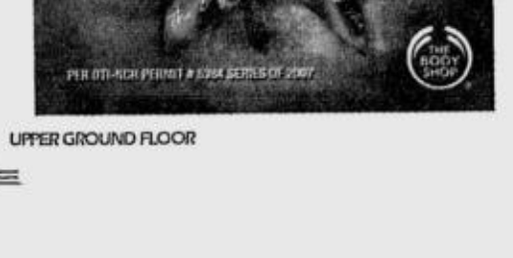

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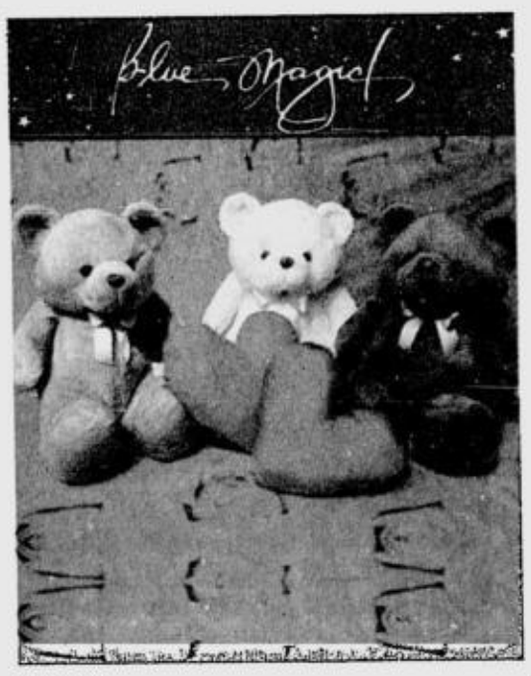

2ND FLOOR

3RD FLOOR

2ND FLOOR

2ND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

2ND FLOOR

KFC
UPPER GROUND FLOOR
KFC HALLOWEEN BUCKET MEAL
PROMO RUNS UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 3323, SERIES OF 2007

WENDY'S
3RD FLOOR
SALAD SENSATION
PROMO RUNS UNTIL NOVEMBER 14, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 4442, SERIES OF 2007

SHAKEY'S
3RD FLOOR
OCTOBER FEAST
PROMO RUNS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30, 2007
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 4974, SERIES OF 2007

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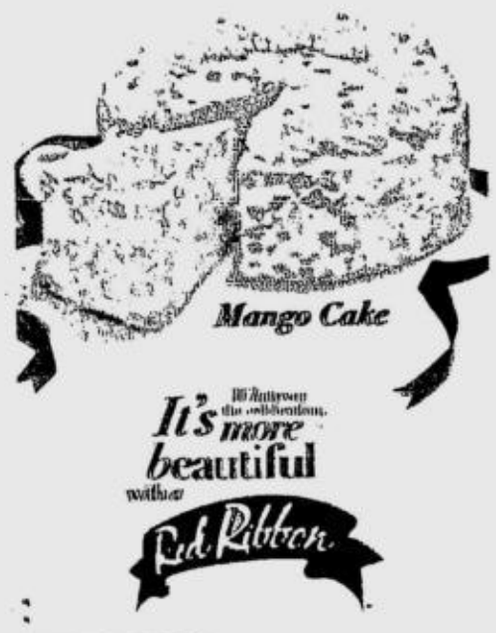
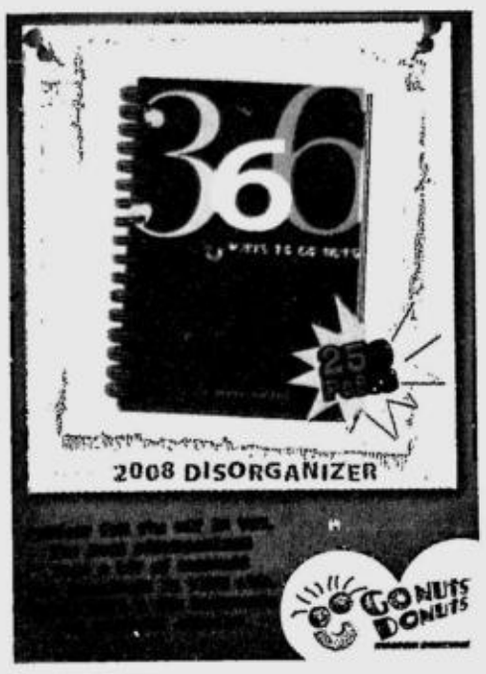


UPPER GROUND FLOOR



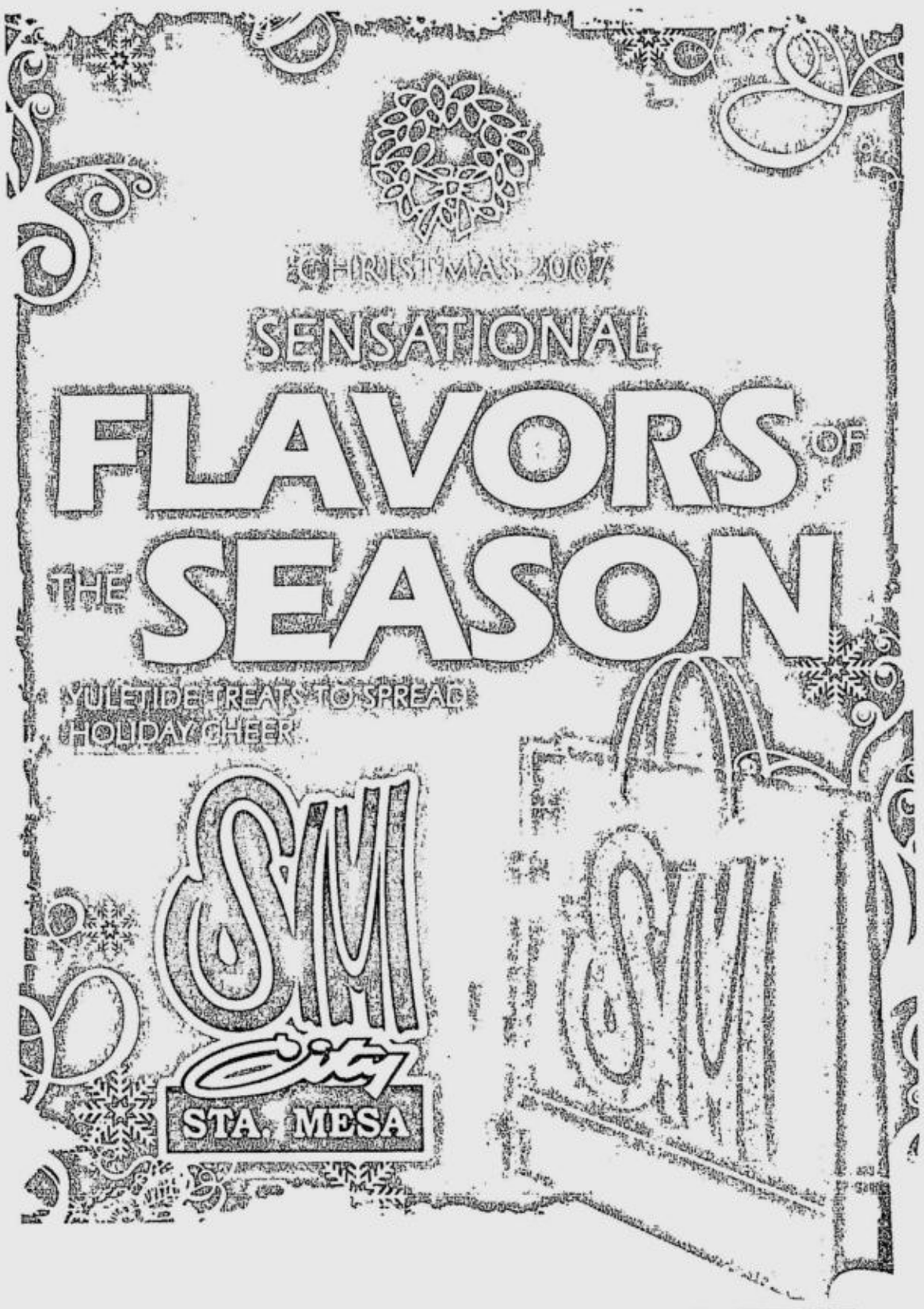
UPPER GROUND FLOOR

LOWER GROUND FLOOR & UPPER GROUND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR



3RD FLOOR

3RD FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

UPPER GROUND FLOOR

3RD FLOOR

2ND FLOOR

3RD FLOOR

2ND FLOOR